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Season 4: Issue 9 Monday 14th April 2008

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INSIDE THIS WEEK...

JOHHNY A BOMBSHELL

FOOTBALL FEATURE ON COLIN QUIRK

FOOTBALL FOCUS ON AIS STAR KOFI DANNING

BRIGHT KNIGHTS AHEAD!

SOUTH LEFT FEELING BLUE

Photo: Daniel Flis

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NOTHING QUIRKY ABOUT COLIN

Evertonian's star already shining at Southern

A couple of months ago Colin Quirk was dreaming of captaining Welsh club Gap Queen's Park in the UEFA Cup next season but now he dreams of signing a contract with a Hyundai A-League club.

That's the dramatic twist that has taken place in the 22-year-old's career but many good judges rate the Liverpool-born midfielder as a class act. None more so than his coach at Southern Stars, Dean Hennessy, who has a history of bringing quality players to Victorian football.

"I've brought out James Robinson, Andy Ross (ex-Chelsea youth, now at Southern Stars), Graham Hockless (Heidelberg), Steve Burton (Green Gully) and Stuart McCluskey (Richmond) among others and I think that Colin is a tremendous talent," said Hennessy.

"We played Oakleigh in a friendly the other night and I thought his performance was right up there with the best of them. Look, I don't want to single him out at the expense of other players in our squad who were terrific, albeit in a friendly, but I thought Colin was outstanding the whole night."

It's been a no-frills start to Quirk's antipodean experience. He arrived on a Thursday in March and two days later played, or tried to play, for Southern Stars in Eastern Lions' annual tournament at Gardiner's Creek Reserve.

It was 40 degrees Celsius in the shade so coach Hennessy took pity on him and started him on the bench. That's where Quirk wished he'd stayed that day.

"I don't remember much about coming off the bench but I remember making a couple of runs and not being able to catch my breath. I was knackered."

But it was an invaluable experience. An ironic one too as at that tournament Quirk met the Morrey brothers, Bill and Robert, and was able to recall his time playing against their famous nephew, Wayne Rooney.

"I was playing in midfield in the Liverpool Sunday League for a side called Stanstone FC, and after being spotted, I went to the Liverpool FC academy (at age seven). I spent six years at Liverpool and really enjoyed my time there. I remember once we were playing an academy game against Everton and we were winning 3–0. Then Wayne Rooney came on, scored four, and we lost 4–3! He was a goal machine," said Quirk.

The other connection between Quirk and the Morreys is also football-related. They are mad Evertonians (most Liverpool fans would call that a tautology – if they knew what a tautology was!), which makes it strange that as a youngster Quirk joined Liverpool.

"I had the choice of (joining) both. I don't know what made me go to Liverpool but I was only seven at the time. Maybe I just enjoyed it more there."

He was released by the Anfield giant just before youth scholarships were due to be given out and later went to Liverpool Community College and trialled with his beloved Everton as a 17-year-old. He played against the Bolton and Blackpool youth teams but wasn't offered terms.

While at Liverpool Community College, Quirk's path crossed that of Brian McGorry's, a former Cardiff, Bournemouth, Peterborough and Chester midfielder who was then both coaching and teaching. McGorry was one of two coaches that made a big impact on Quirk.

"He really helped me to develop as a player," said Quirk. "Roger Preece (Gap Queen's Park) is another coach that stands out. The big thing back home was playing the percentages and it was the way that Roger drummed it into you that was great."

Quirk sees major differences between our football style and what he is used to and he has respect for the standard out here.

"I didn't really know what to expect when I arrived in Melbourne. I was used to defenders playing the ball long and my job was to battle for seconds but here they pay much more attention to the ball.

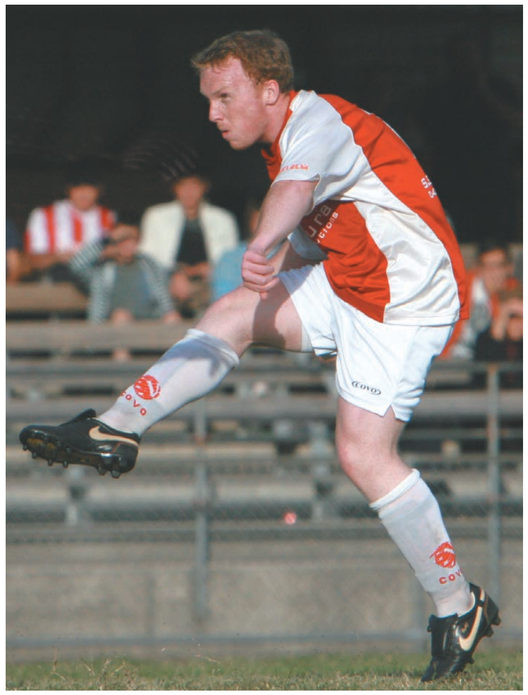
"The standard's not bad really. Everyone seems comfortable on the ball and the fitness levels are good."

And although he admits to bouts of homesickness ("You think about what you're missing out on back home") Southern Stars has done its best to look after its visa import.

"The club's really treated me well and Dean's looked after me. It was through a friend of Dean's that I got a job as a driver in a Hyundai garage.

"As for the lads down at the club, they're a very nice group, a very tight-knit bunch but it didn't take long to fit it. And judging by what the lads are saying we've improved the squad this year.

"We didn't have Andy Ross or Thierry Boi for the first game (a 1–1 draw away to Langwarrin) and they're quality.



"When we played Oakleigh in a friendly all the lads had been telling me about Thierry. They were saying just wait until he's right and you'll see what he's like and I saw it against Oakleigh. He just glided past players and made it look so easy."

Quirk is learning all the time about his team. He learned against Langwarrin that Southern Stars can stand up to a tough and disciplined physical challenge. He also learned that there's a strength of character in the side having played the last 35 minutes of that match with 10 men and coming back from 1–0 down to snatch a thoroughly-deserved point.

"Dean put a test to us before the Langwarrin game to see whether we could stand the physical challenge and we proved that we were up to it.

"I didn't know much about Langwarrin and what the expectations were for our season so I asked Dean at the start whether we were expected to win. He said it would be a real test for us going down there and I think we passed the test. I thought we actually deserved to win and we opened up Langwarrin more with 10 men than when it was 11 v 11."

While Quirk has committed himself to Southern Stars this season it would be no surprise to see Premier League clubs show interest in him well before Round 22. He's quietly confident in his own ability. He's ambitious too.

"I know that it's a long way off right now but I'm hoping to step up to the Premier League here and maybe even the A-League."

But first things first. There's promotion to be won, maybe even a championship in the offing and while it's early days yet, Southern Stars have shown enough to suggest that Quirk and his teammates will be vying for honours at the business end of this season.

FOOTNOTE: We acknowledge www.gapqueensparkfc.com for some of the above content. Gap Queens Park FC is owned by gap personnel, a Welsh-founded recruitment agency. Last month Gap Queen's Park's Welsh FA Cup run (which could have earned the Cymru Alliance League club a UEFA Cup spot) ended at the quarter-final stage of the tournament when it was beaten 3–2 by Welsh Premier side Rhyl.

By Craig MacKenzie

Photos by John Punshon

Photos: Daniel Flis & Therese Duffy

goal! Weekly

This week's line-up

Soccer Hotlines	3
Foxtel Cup Scoreboard	4
Knights v South	5
Lions v AIS	6
Suburbs v Zebras	7
Magic v Bergers	8
Blues v Coburg	11
WPL Wrap	12
Football Focus	13
Eagles v Pines	14
Gully v Cannons	15
Division One Wrap	16
Boo, Katsa & Tsigan	19 & 20
Asian Champions League	22
European Champions League	23
Souvenir Poster	27

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JOHNNY A LEAVES SOUTH

Coach drops bombshell on Foxtel Cup

John Anastasiadis is no longer the head coach of South Melbourne FC.

The 2006 VPL championship winning coach parted ways with his beloved Blues shortly after South suffered a heavy 0-3 defeat to Green Gully at Bob Jane Stadium last Sunday.

The defeat left South with 6pts out of a possible 21 and languishing just above the relegation zone in 10th place.

Rumours in Victorian football circles had been running rife in recent weeks that Johnny A's position was under pressure due to the club's indifferent start to the year, and the rumours finally transpired into reality when the final decision was announced during the week.

Anastasiadis met with the board last Monday night to hand in his resignation and players were officially informed at training on Thursday.

Asked how the decision came about, Anastasiadis told Goal! Weekly "It's a combination of reasons and I felt like the time was right to go. I've done my time and it was coming up to four years, we've all got an expiry date and I felt mine was up. I tried, but I just couldn't get enough out of the players anymore – that's not to put any blame on anyone, but that's just like a law in football, if you like - it's just one of those things and we now move forward to the next chapter".

Anastasiadis went on to add, "The boys have tried as hard as possible and it's been pretty hard to believe it, but I guess nothing is forever. I just wish them all the best for the rest of the season and hope they can get back to the top where they belong."

The former centre forward scored 32 goals in 54 appearances for South during one of its most successful periods in the club's history in the late 90's, will no doubt go down in history as the coach that showed enormous loyalty to help pick up the pieces when the club was on the verge of extinction. At the time the club had been inactive for almost 18 months due to the disbanding of the NSL in 2003 and faced financial ruin.

The club managed to return to competitive football in the VPL in 2005 and with a completely new squad went close to writing a fairy tale chapter by coming within a kick of reaching the Grand Final. Elimination by Green Gully in the Preliminary Final on penalties meant it wasn't to be.

Johnny A delivered the championship the very next season however, signaling that South Melbourne was truly alive and kicking once again. A disappointing title defence meant the club failed to make the Top Six last year and with two wins out of a possible seven games so far in 2008 means the team has it all to play for to challenge for honours once again.

"We started in the VPL with absolutely nothing- no players what so ever – and we built it back up again. When I came to the club everyone was knocking the club back. When I got the job there was other people being interviewed as well, but nobody wanted to touch it. It didn't look too rosy at the time, but we had to do what we had to do, to get the club above water. It's going to be a forever struggle in the VPL because of where it is and the fact the support is not what it used to be. There are a few die-hard people who remain who won't let the club go down, because it's got a massive history, and hopefully the future will be better for them."

Asked if he had any confidence in the future with the league's current situation Anastasiadis replied, "I think the league has to be fixed up and something has to be done about it. Apart from Goal! Weekly and Channel 31 there's absolutely no media coverage for the competition and it's an absolute disgrace. We're nothing at the moment. No one knows when we're ever playing and it's just a sad state of affairs. I hope some of the football people actually look after the game itself and not just themselves. It's a hard slog and I think everyone is hitting a brick wall at the moment."

Was it the last we've seen of Anastasiadis? "I'll take some time off for now and then we'll wait and see. I love being involved in the dressing rooms, I'm still passionate about the game and I love being out on the field - whether it's at training or on match day. There's no doubt I want to keep coaching."

Michael Michalakopoulos has since been appointed as the new coach and was in charge of the team for the derby against Melbourne Knights at Knights Stadium yesterday.

Johnny A's reign at South is over

Just like Anastasiadis before him, Michalakopoulos is also a former striker of South Melbourne, winning a NSL championship in 1991.

Until May last year Michalakopoulos was at the helm of Whittlesea Zebras before stepping down from the role due to family commitments.

The coaching change at South Melbourne follows closely from the departure of Kon Pappas at Western Suburbs.

Pappas was replaced by former Socceroo Kenny Murphy, who also makes a return to Foxtel Cup action after previously enjoying spells at Altona Magic (2004-2006) and a not so enjoyable brief spell at Kingston City (6 games last year).

Pappas said, "I'm not bitter. It just didn't work out right and I just have to move on. I still think I can do a job. I take full responsibility, but I didn't always have the cattle to do the right job.

Asked if there was any animosity towards Wetsern Suburbs for not being allowed to finish the job, "There's no problem with the club. I shook hands with the people there, I've been paid by the club, the president always looked after me and life goes on. I know the team can do well and they can get better. I wish them well. They just need to gel and gain some momentum. There's always that potential team that can rise no matter where they are on the ladder. Suburbs did it last year, so did the Zebras when they made it to the grand final, it's still plenty of points to play for and Suburbs can certainly get themselves out of trouble pretty quickly. "

Asked if he would consider coaching in the Foxtel Cup again Pappas replied "If a chance arises again, I'll definitely think about it and we'll see how it goes".

John in happier times with brother Dean hoisting aloft the 2006 VPL title.

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FOXTEL CUP STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Melbourne Knights	8	5	3	0	16	6	18
Richmond Eagles	8	5	2	1	25	8	17
Green Gully Cavaliers	8	5	2	1	11	5	17
Oakleigh Cannons	8	5	2	1	11	5	17
A.I.S	8	5	1	2	17	9	16
Altona Magic	8	3	3	2	10	8	12
Heidelberg Utd	8	2	4	2	11	11	10
Whittlesea Zebras	8	2	3	3	11	15	9
Preston Lions	7	2	2	3	10	14	8
Coburg Utd	8	2	2	4	8	12	8
Western Suburbs	8	2	1	5	6	16	7
South Melbourne	8	2	0	6	9	13	6
Fawkner Blues	9	1	3	5	7	18	6
Frankston Pines	8	0	2	6	5	17	2

RESULTS

Richmond Eagles	6 - 0	Frankston Pines
Altona Magic	0 - 1	Heidelberg United
Fawkner Blues	0 - 0	Coburg United
Green Gully Cavaliers	2 - 1	Oakleigh Cannons
Western Suburbs	2 - 2	Whittlesea Zebras
Melbourne Knights	2 - 0	South Melbourne
Preston Lions	0 - 3	AIS

UNDER 21 DETAILS

Richmond 0 Frankston Pines 2, Altona Magic 0 Heidelberg Utd 2, Green Gully Cavaliers 2 Oakleigh Cannons 0, Melbourne Knights 1 South Melbourne 1, Western Suburbs 2 Whittlesea Zebras 1, Fawkner Blues 1 Coburg Utd 4, Preston Lions 1 V.I.S 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Sunshine Georgies	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
Bentleigh Greens	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Southern Stars	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Kingston City	2	1	0	1	4	2	3
Springvale White Eagles	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
St Albans Saints	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Bulleen Royals	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
FC Clifton Hill	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Langwarrin	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Dandenong Thunder	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Westgate	2	0	0	2	1	5	0
Keilor Park	2	0	0	2	0	4	0

THE TOP MARKSMEN

Player, Club	Goals
Cardozo, Richard Richmond SC	8
Naidovski, Jason A.I.S	8
Cardozo, Pablo Richmond SC	7
Curcija, Michael Altona Magic SC	7
Nikolic, Joel Green Gully Cavaliers	6
Catalano, Michael Richmond SC	4
Danning, Kofi D A.I.S	4
Josifovski, Alexander Coburg United	4
Lagana, Frankie M Oakleigh Cannons FC	4

goal! Weekly

ROUND NINE FIXTURES

OAKLEIGH CANNONS
V
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS
Jack Edwards Reserve
Fri 18 Apr KO 8:30PM

GREEN GULLY
V
A.I.S
Green Gully Reserve
Sat 19 Apr KO 4:00PM

COBURG UTD
V
ALTONA MAGIC
Knights Stadium
Sat 19 Apr KO 6:00PM

HEIDELBERG UTD
V
RICHMOND EAGLES
Olympic Village
Sun 20 Apr KO 3:00PM

PRESTON LIONS
V
WESTERN SUBURBS
BT Connor Reserve
Sun 20 Apr KO 3:00PM

SOUTH MELBOURNE
V
FAWKNER BLUES
Bob Jane Stadium
Sun 20 Apr KO 4:00PM

WHITTLESEA ZEBRAS
V
FRANKSTON PINES
Epping Soccer Stdm
Sun 20 Apr KO 5:00PM

Please check the
FFV website
for any fixture changes.

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

2 - 0

SOUTH MELBOURNE

KNIGHTS HIT FOXTEL SUMMIT

South slips into drop zone

Two early goals secured a consecutive 2-0 win for the Melbourne Knights as they disposed of former NSL bitter rivals South Melbourne at Knights stadium. The win has rocketed Knights to the top of the table, leaving South and new coach Michalakopoulos sitting third last in the relegation zone..

The Knights wearing their traditional all red tops, burst out of the blocks and took an immediate lead. Dario Matkovic sent in his corner to the back post, that was met by the head of Zoran Petrevski sending his header into the roof of the net.

South Melbourne were still shell-shocked when Barisic split his run between two defenders, and lashed a hard low drive towards goal that Anastasiadis tipped past the post. The Knights did however double their lead in the 13thminute, Petrevski squared his header allowing the diving Kiratzoglou to nod his header home, much to the delight of the home crowd.

The Lakeside club worked their way back into the game and midway through the first half, De Moraes was certain he pulled one back, when he sent his curling free-kick towards the top corner only to be denied by the fingertips of Ozdemir.

Ozdemir was called into action again when an unmarked Zoric found space in the box, with the goal beckoning he was only able to hit his shot into the onrushing Knights keeper. South Melbourne gained midfield momentum with Tavsancioglu looking dangerous, however the supply to the front two of Zoric and former Knight Caldwell was second rate.

Michalakopoulos threw on Diaco in the second half, and it almost payed dividends, as the former A-League player swooped on a loose ball in the box from 5 yards out, only for South to be denied again by the reflex's of Ozdemir.

The Knights seemed content with the score line, changing tactics by dropping Barisic back into the midfield taking a more cautious approach. South only needed a goal to spark the game back into life, and they almost got it midway thought the half, only for Dario Matkovic to clear off the line from a De Moraes attempt.

South Melbourne failed to create any more chances in the game, as they continue their worst ever start to a season since re-joining the state competition. Their main reason being the lack of goals upfront, something Michalakopoulos will surely address.

South will have their chance to turn their fortunes around, as they take on fellow strugglers Fawkner Blues at Bob Jane Stadium in a must win games for both teams. The Knights and Oakleigh Cannons will battle it out at Jack Edwards Reserve on Friday night in one of the games of the round.

KNIGHTS LINE UP: Ozdemir, Iosifides, Grbesa, Franjic(Thompson 77'), Kiratzoglou, Matkovic(Spiteri 75'), Pelikan(Zahra 89'), Watson, Elvin, Petrevski, Barisic.

Subs Not Used: Loncaric, Cuze.
Yellow Cards: Matkovic.

SOUTH LINE UP: Anastasidis, Nunes, Van Dommele, O'Dor, Caldwell(De Nittis 58'), Natsioulas (Armenian 72'), Zoric, LaVerde (Diaco 46'), Tavsancioglu, De Moraes, Poutakidis.

Subs Not Used: Vahid, Jelic.

Yellow Cards: O' Dor, Caldwell, Poutakidis.

MOM:
Savas Ozdemir
(Melbourne Knights)

CROWD: 2500 approx & 4 horses
Venue: Knights Stadium

By Andrew Fisher

Photos by Daniel Flis

Back in time: On return from Singapore to watch his team take top spot in the Foxtel Cup, Knights Chairman Matt Tomas joins Steve Iosifidis (L), Andrew Baresic (partly obscured) and Alex Kiratzoglou enjoy a sweet derby victory over rivals South Melbourne.

Back in the big time: New South Melbourne Coach Michael Michalakopoulos returns to the Foxtel Cup yesterday. Unfortunately he was unable to prevent South from losing its sixth game of the season and now drops into the relegation zone.

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PRESTON LIONS
0 - 3
AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF SPORT

AIS PROVE A CAPITAL GAINS

Youngsters outclass champs

A fluid AIS side comfortably accounted for Foxtel Cup holders Preston Lions 3-0, in the process further entrenching themselves at the top end of the table. Matt Theodore and Jason Hoffman (2) did the scoring for an exuberant AIS team that regularly dissected last year's champions.

Preston spent much of the first half scarcely coping with a spritely AIS side playing a visually pleasing style of football that was as effective as it was attractive. The nation's best youth played with a fluency that Victoria's reigning premiers struggled to withstand.

Crisp interchanges of passing characterised an AIS side whose ability to maintain quality at pace placed Preston under immense pressure as AIS midfielders swarmed forward at every opportunity.

The stress exerted on the Preston defence by the throngs of AIS attacks produced the first goal in the 14th minute. Pursued by AIS attackers, Nicholas Schwal meekly headed a long ball back across his defensive box and into the path of Matt Theordore who crisply finished with his left foot.

AIS continued to harry a comparatively pedestrian Preston side and another defensive mishap would provide AIS with their second. Kofi Danning was presented with the ball on the left after two Lions defenders tangled, Danning found a surging Hoffman who powered the ball into the net from inside the six yard box.

AIS took their two goal advantage in at half time; a second half Preston comeback seemed unlikely given their ineffectiveness going forward in the first period.

Though, Preston emerged with a greater attacking impetus after the break and because of their increased attacking presence, AIS were forced to defend with greater numbers; the heightened defensive responsibilities partly curtailed the attacking expression that had been present throughout AIS's first half performance.

Lions' captain Tony Sterjovski's distinctive creativity on the left was the source of his side's second half mini-renaissance during which Igorce Kolevski had a headed effort cleared off the line in the 65th minute and strong claims for a penalty for handball against Theodore turned down in the 68th.

Preston would fail to capitalise on their increased possession and a second for Hoffman in the 73rd minute put an end to their resurgence. Hoffman collected a through-ball amid Preston cries for offside before clipping the ball past oncoming goalkeeper Lupce Acevski and sliding the ball into the net to make it 3-0.

The score-line reflected the speed and quality of the AIS side and was testament to the work-rate of the AIS players who were as willing to track back into defence as they were to join attacking forays.

Lions: L. Acevski, V. Pititto (B. Micovski 72'), L. Anastasiou, M. Gasparis, T. Sterjovski, J. Sapazovski (M.Miskas 88'), I. Kolevski (R. Naydovski 81'), S. Masalkovski, F. Catalano, B. Georgioski, N.Schwal.

Scorers: None
Yellow cards: F. Catalano 77'
Red cards: none

AIS: M.Birghitti, D. Mullen, L. Devere (D. Milovanovic 89'), R. Greer, M. Theodore, J. Naidovski. Danning, J. Hoffman, S. Tibbetts, I. Pavlak, S. Munro (L. Braude 75').

Scorers: M. Theodore 14', J. Hoffman 25', 73'
Yellow cards: none
Red cards: none

Man of the Match
Matt Theodore
(AIS)

Crowd: 600
Venue: Connor Reserve

By Sebastian Kipman
Photos by Nome Risteski

Preston's Marinos Gasparis comes under some close attention from his AIS marker during yesterday's defeat to the impressive youngsters.

AIS player Jason Hoffman makes sure of his second goal and his team's third goal as he guides the ball over the goal-line at BT Connor Reserve yesterday

WESTERN SUBURBS

2 - 2

WHITTLESEA ZEBRAS

MURPHY MAKES A POINT

Zebras come from two goals down

Whittlesea came from two goals down to steal a 2-2 draw in a fiery clash with Western Suburbs at the Ralph Reserve this afternoon.

Suburbs was two goals to the good after 31 minutes, but a quick response from Steve Martin had them back in the game.

The match came to a controversial close deep into injury time when substitute Simon Lamanda scored the winner from what the Suburbs player claimed was an offside position.

But the referee waved away their protests and the goal stood, sealing a point for the Zebras.

The result could easily have been different had Western Suburbs converted any of a number of gilt-edged second half chances, but instead they will have to be content with a draw.

The first real chance of the game came in the 7th minute when Goran Talevski went wide with a volley after Suburbs had failed to clear the ball from a corner.

Sebastian Petrovic should have given the Zebras the lead minutes later when he ran onto the ball in space after Dimi Hatzimouratis had given it up in midfield. But the midfielder skied his shot with the outside of his boot.

Ivan Razov stretchered off 14min after a poor lunging tackle from O'Hare YC But the match turned in the 14th minute after Ivan Razov was stretchered off with a possible broken leg after a crude tackle from Zebra's forward Ryan O'Hare.

O'Hare was lucky to escape with just a yellow card, with Razov having to be taken for x-rays on his leg.

This seemed to spur Suburbs on however, and they took the lead on 20 minutes thanks to a stunning strike from captain Terry Antoniadis.

The Zebras defence failed to clear a long ball, allowing Antoniadis to burst through and unleash a dipping volley that left Whittlesea keeper Robert Simeoni rooted to the spot.

And it was 2-0 on 33 minutes when John Cvetanoski doubled their advantage from the spot.

Zebra's defender Mark Vazzochi handled on the edge of the area, and Cvetanoski coolly slotted home the penalty.

But just a minute later Whittlesea had pulled one back. Looping free kick deceived everyone, including Suburbs keeper Stjepan Gal, and somehow found its way into the back of the net.

Milan Batur nearly restored the two goal advantage just before half time, but his header was saved off the line by Zebra's midfielder James Sherman.

Tomi Razov also went close with the last kick of the half, a searing volley that was just wide of the post.

The first chance of the second half went to the Zebras, with Goran Talevski shooting wide after Jerry Karpeh had laid it off.

Dimi Hatzimouratis could have extended Suburbs' lead in the 71st minute, but his flick on from Lorenz Kindtner's cross was straight at Simeoni.

While Whittlesea had the bulk of possession they were proving no real threat on goal.

The Zebra's pushed forward in search of a late equaliser and nearly found one through Ross Antoniadis deep into injury time. But the defender's low shot was brilliantly saved by Gal diving to his left.

Jean-Phillipe Javary should have sealed the game in the 90th minute when he found himself one on one with the keeper but he shot over the bar.

And then with just seconds remaining substitute Simon Lamanda found the equaliser, poking home past Stjepan Gal to secure a point for the Zebras.

Despite the result, Western Suburbs coach Ken Murphy has been pleased with his side's effort the past two weeks.

"If you conced two goals it's always going to be hard to win the game, but if you miss two or three yourself then that's just as bad. ," Murphy said.

"Once we got our rhythm we dominated the play. We looked solid defensively and had some good build up play. If you take the result out I'm pretty pleased with the performance."

Western Suburbs: S. Gal, J. Cvetanoski, E. Karavitis, A. Tsonis, T. Antoniadis, L. Kindtner, I. Razov (M. Batur 14'), T. Razov, V. Kalogeracos, D. Hatzimouratis (J. Javary 82'), E.Cetkin.

Goals: T. Antoniadis 20', J. Cvetanoski 31'

Yellow Cards: M. Batur 21', E. Karavitis 35', L. Kindtner 90', J. Javary 93'
Red Cards: none

Whittlesea: R. Simeoni, R. Antoniadis, M. Vazzochi, C. Molan, S. Martin, G. Talevski, S. Petrovic, J. Sherman (A. Colosimo 59'), G. Lombardo, R. O'Hare, J. Karpeh (S. Lamanda 59')

Goals: S. Martin 33', S. Lamanda 90'

Yellow Cards: R. O'Hare 14',
Red Cards: none

Crowd: 300
Venue: Ralph Reserve

Man of the Match:
Terry Antoniadis
(Western Suburbs)

By Lachlan Taylor

Photo by Daniel Flis

ALTONA MAGIC

0 - 1

HEIDELBERG UNITED

BERGERS BOUNCE BACK

Magic fails to fire at home

Heidelberg United has bounced back from last week's shock loss to Fawkner Blues and inflicted a surprising 1-0 victory over Top Six side Altona Magic at Paisley Park on Saturday.

For the second week in a row the Bergers turned the form book on its head, although this time it was their turn to hit the jackpot.

Heidelberg's stalwart tall defender Robert Liparoti clinched the vital three points with the only goal of the game after seven minutes had been played on the clock.

The away side started brightly and made its intentions felt early on in the encounter.

A sweeping move culminating in a sweet shot by Josip Kozic was saved superbly by Magic custodian, Bojo Jevdjevic, pushing the ball away to the touchline.

From the ensuing throw-in Graham Hockless sent a one of his trademark torpedoes deep into the penalty box, and just like one of those training ground maneuvers Liparoti was on hand to find the back of the net with a well connected header that thundered into the onion bag.

From start to finish Heidelberg never looked in trouble and continued to dictate play with its midfielders well in control of the battle.

The unassuming Hockless went about his business productively and seems to be gradually strengthening his understanding with his new team-mates since transferring across from Richmond Eagles.

His range and precision of passing was complimented by fellow engine room team-mate Sasha Alexovski,who also played a solid game on the left.

On paper Altona have a quality line-up but Heidelberg's intensity restricted them from playing their normal game.

Magic striker Henry Fa'arado rode a couple of chances for the home side but either his touch or a pressing Heidelberg defence eliminated any real danger.

Berger coach commented after the match, "It was always going to be tough to come back from an unusual loss to the bottom team last week. It showed great character and determination to switch on and focus on what we had to do. The most important aspect for us this week was not to concede a goal and I thought the boys responded well."

Magic coach Vlado Tortevski was obviously disappointed with his troops and said after the match, "I think today we had one of our worst performances for a couple of seasons. I realize the boys are not playing to their best at times because they probably feel the pressure to win every time - sometimes football can have that effect. But, we have to handle these things more professionally and we have to sit down and start from the basics again. We know we can do it and we have to learn to deal with our expectations. We have to work hard and come out of this moment which is not good for Altona."

Foxtel Cup Cup action from Heidelberg United's surprise win at Altona Magic on Saturday. Magic keeper Bojo Jevdjevic pulls off a strong save amid close attention from preying Bergers' match winner Robert Liparoti (right) and a host of others.

Match details:

Altona magic:
B.Jevdejevic, C.Anthopoulos, S.Laurie, D.Mlagdenovic, H.Fa'arado, C.Recchia, M.Curcija, P.Siveski, A.Sherifovski, T.NcSorley (C.Rachkovski 68'), P.Cergovski (S.Mrkela 63').

Scorers: None

Yellow cards: Curcija 50', Siveski 60'.
Red cards: None

Heidelberg United:
P.Gavalas, R.Liparoti, D.Jones, J.Stefano, E.Vassiliadis, J.Kozic, G.Hockless, T.Ouliaris, S.Aleksovski (E.Ameti 83'), D.Alilovic (J.Drossos 58'), M.Tsiorlas (T.Paton 89').

Scorer: Liparoti 7'.

Yellow cards: Vassiliadis 12', Aleksovski 18', Stefano 29', Alilovic 36', Ouliaris 83'.
Red cards: None

Man of the Match
Graham Hockless
(Heidelberg United)

Crowd: 300
Venue: Paisley Park

By James Taylor

Photo by Daniel Flis

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FAWKNER BLUES

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COBURG UNITED

VALUABLE POINTS SHARED

Fawkner wastes penalty and chance to win again

In a game where both sides needed three points Fawkner and Coburg battled it out on a very sub standard pitch which was impossible to play any pretty football on and the focus by both coaches from the start was to just win, no matter how.

In the opening two minutes of the game a penalty was awarded to Fawkner after Kovacevic handled the ball in his penalty area after miss judging a header from a cross from Principato and gave Fawkner the first opportunity to get a score on the board. Fikret Husanovic took the spot kick full of confidence having scored twice last week, however this week he could not convert after Hrehoresin made a great save diving to his left and keep the scores level for his side. On 6 minutes Husanovic had an opportunity to forget about his miss and put his side in front after he struck a half volley from long range which again Hrehoresin pulled off another good save to keep it scoreless.

Fawkner were controlling the early parts of the game and after 17 minutes had another good opportunity to put them in front when Younan used his skills to dribble through a couple of Coburg's defenders to then blaze over the cross bar from the edge of the 18 yard box.

Coburg had there first chance after 19 minutes when tireless midfielder Ross Thompson shoot from long range however the shot never really tested Fawkner keeper Schwalger.

Fawkner again pressed to gain the advantage when Galanos made a good run down the right side of Coburg's defense to cut into the box and miss place the pass as Coburg were grateful that his final pass could not hit a target.

Vlahos had Coburg's best chance of the half when he done some quick short inter passing with Magnacca who played a fantastic ball into Vlahos who struck the ball very firmly towards the goal and forced Schwalger into a great save.

Fawkner were defiantly the better side for the first 30 minutes and at half time would have been disappointed not to be in front however Coburg gained possession of the ball and slowly started to impose themselves on the game in the last 15 minutes of the half.

In the second half the game had change and Coburg looked the more likely side however failed to create any real treating opportunities as the Fawkner's defense of Napoli and Co held up to the pressure of Coburg's talented forward line had caused them.

Coburg coach Joe Montemurro then made a change and decided to bring on Josifovski who looked extremely dangerous up front with his presence and sharpness. Montemurro move started to work with Vlahos looking more and more dangerous every time the ball went forward and he nearly put Coburg in front when a ball came in from the right side which Vlahos got a fantastic header on to put just wide of the Fawkner post.

On the 70th minute Fawkner had an opportunity to hit the lead when Napoli's free kick forced Hrehoresin to punch the ball which then landed at Younan's feet just outside the box which he struck with the outside of the right foot and struck the post. Napoli again used his dangerous left foot when he had another free kick which he crossed from the right side which forced another save from Coburg keeper Hrehoresin who got a finger tip on it to send it just wide.

In the last 10 minutes Coburg finished the stronger side and look dangerous going forward however failed to test Fawkner goalkeeper Schwalger.

Fawkner would have felt they should have taken the spoils in this match after missing a penalty and hitting the post however Coburg had large amount of possession and really pegged Fawkner back in the second half and a draw was perhaps a fair result in a poor standard of match.

Fawkner travel to Bob Jane Stadium next week where they face South Melbourne in what becomes an early 6 pointer for both sides where as Coburg face Altona Magic at Knights Stadium on Saturday night.

Coburg's Andy Vlahos flies in between Fawkner's Michael Bosevski (front) and Boris Masic.

Adam Hrehoresen (Coburg United) saves a penalty early in the match

Man of the Match:
Ross Thompson
(Coburg United)

COBURG:
Team: Adam Hrehoresin, Ahmet Gurpinar, Sime Kovacevic, Brett Gilmour, Ross Thompson, Sedar Pir, Anothony Magnacca, Mustafa Mustafa , Andrew Vlahos, Nick Harrhy {60 Alex Josifovski}, Sumbul Turhan

Bench: Alex Josifovski, Alex Ticmypetr, John Petridis , Thomas Kovar, Caner Ucarli

Yellow cards: Kovacevic

FAWKNER BLUES:
Team Pasi Schwalger, Clifford Tuck, Boris Masic, Ben Gogger, Ralph Napoli(Vlado Juric), Fikret Husanovic(Dejan Radojicic), Adam Zilic, Jason Principato(Michael Bosevski), Zia Younan, Joseph Youssef, Yannis Galanos

Bench: Ross Mancuso, Michael Packovski, Dejan Radojicic, Vlado Juric, Michael Bosevski

Yellow cards: Younan

Crowd: 312
Venue: CB Smith Reserve

By Harry Papadopoulos

Photo by John Punshon

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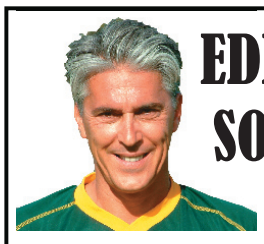

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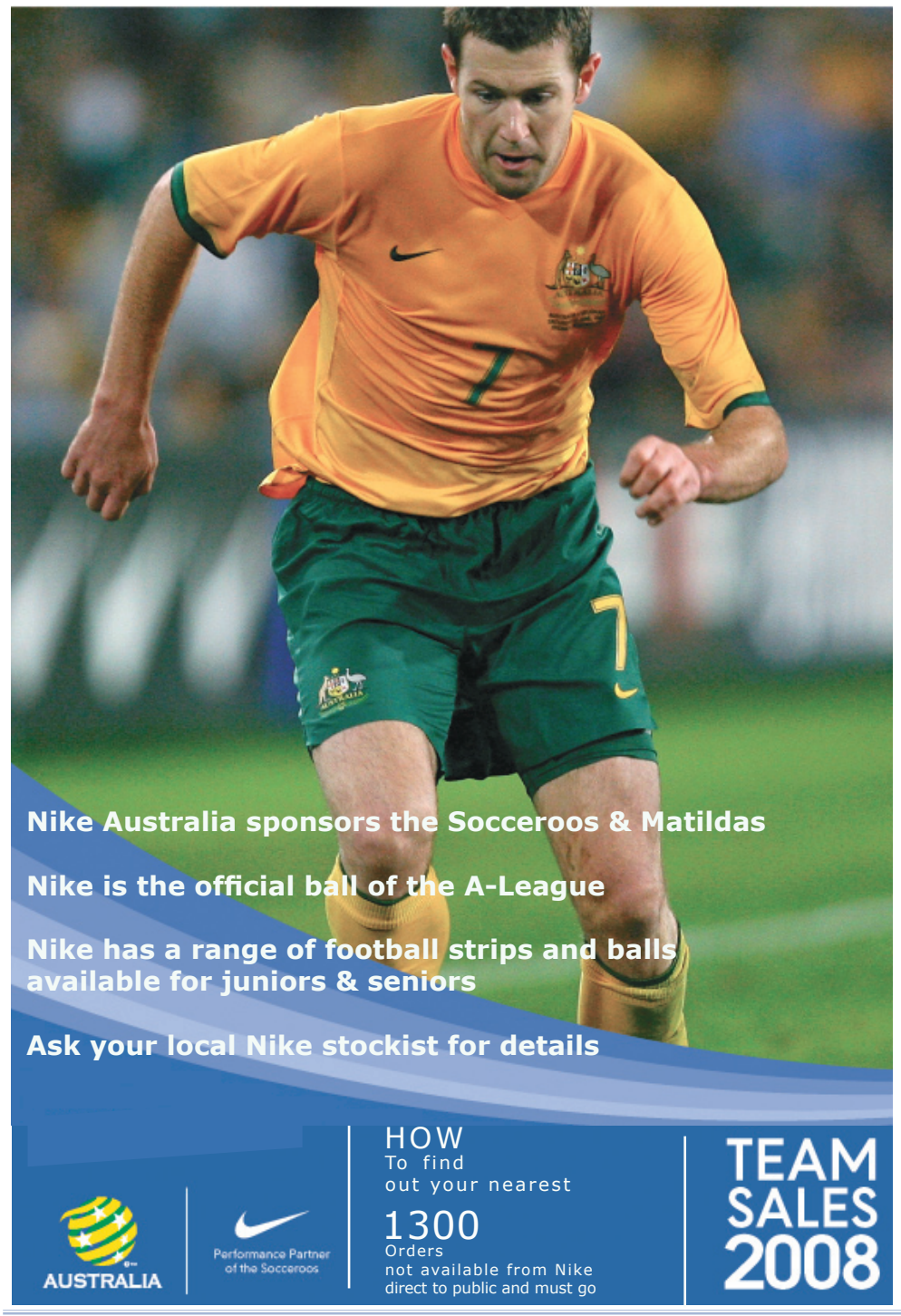
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CUTTING EDGE KEEPING

ORIGINS OF THE MEDIA AWARD

How we came to recognise the best and the fairest in Victoria

Victorian football has a number of annual awards to its best players, male and female. The oldest of these is the Bill Fleming Medal, which dates from 1954 and is still voted on and awarded by the Victorian football media.

The medal was originally known as the Argus Gold Medal after the newspaper for which Bill Fleming wrote with distinction for many years. The offer of a trophy for the best and fairest player in the Victorian Amateur Soccer Football Association First Division was accepted by the VASFA Council at its meeting on Monday, 28 June 1954.

The referees agreed to vote for the players considered for the award. An article in Soccer News recorded, 'Bill Fleming, who writes for the Argus is a very keen soccer man and but for his keen interest we might not have the Argus award for the best and fairest. Quite a good player in his time too.' The early fancies for the first award were Morrie Payne of South Yarra and Sid Thomas of Hakoah. It was thought that Payne would poll well in a weak team. South Yarra finished bottom of the league in 1954, while Thomas had several good team-mates who would share the votes. And so it proved, as Morrie Payne won the inaugural Argus Gold Medal in 1954.

In 1971 as part of the sponsorship arrangements entered into by the Victorian Soccer Federation the State League player of the year was awarded the Rothmans Gold Medal, but the renamed Bill Fleming Medal continued as the special recognition to a player offered by the media. On some occasions the media, who now record their votes for their own medal, and the referees have seen eye to eye, but not always, and my journalist colleagues have always jealously defended their own special award.

And what of the man himself, Bill Fleming? He was a straight-shooting journalist, who often got into hot water with the soccer authorities of the day. Twice in 1955 he was hauled over the coals by Soccer News for his criticism of the people who ran the game at that time. But as Bill said, 'We of the Press have been good friends to Soccer. … The sporting press of Victoria are a sturdy group, who play the game, do their job to the best of their ability, and who don't violate confidences.' Long may it continue.

Football in Victoria has been well served by its journalists over the years, from Owen Wilshaw, Morrie Buckner, Alex Barr, Fred Villiers, Egilberto Martin, Elias Donoudis, Manos Milios, Jim Bakatsoulas, Craig McKenzie, Kyle Patterson and Les Shorrock and the prince among them, Laurie Schwab, through to our current generation who do so much to promote the game as they write critical analyses thereof. Rocco di Zio, Milan Ninovic, Alan Clarke, Peter Desira and Michael Lynch are worthy successors to a great tradition.

The players who have won the Bill Fleming Medal form a roll-call of some of the best talent the game has seen. They include Pepe Cubero of JUST and Bob Wemyss then at Polonia who shared the honour in 1956, Fred Falzon of George Cross, dual winner in 1961 and 1962 and Tommy Cumming and who repeated the feat in 1978-79 at Essendon Croatia.

Frank Micic of JUST won the medal three times in 1964, 1967 and 1973, a very impressive record Charlie Egan, Peter and Paul Lewis, Jimmy MacLean, and Velimir Kupresak were ornaments of the game in their day.

In more recent times the award has sometimes gone to players early in their careers like Henry Fa'arodo, David Cervinski and Fausto de Amicis. But in other cases it has recognised long and distinguished contributions to the game in Victoria and elsewhere from the likes of Tony Schipano and current holder, Preston's Tony Sterjovski.

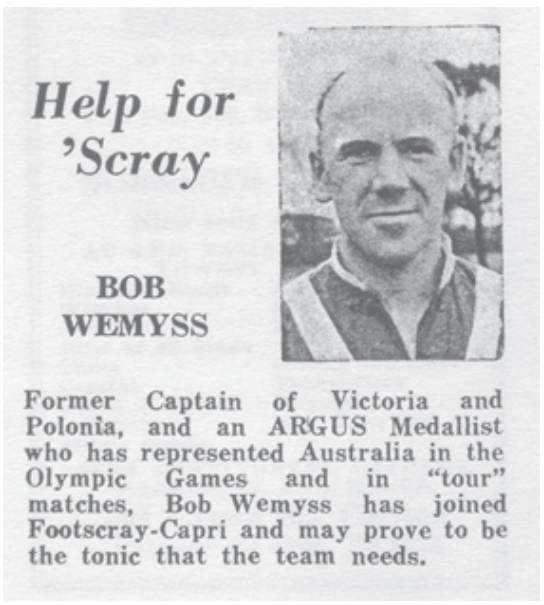
Frank Micic (centre) in action for Australia against Israel. Three-time winner of the Bill Fleming Medal.

PREVIOUS WINNERS OF THE BILL FLEMING MEDAL

Season	Winner	Club
2007	Tony Sterjovski	Preston Lions
2006	Anthony Magnacca	Preston Lions
2005	Rodrigo Vargas	Green Gully Cavaliers
2004	Michael Curcija	Essendon Royals
2003	Tony Schipano	Fawkner Blues
2002	Henry Fa'arodo	Fawkner Blues
2001	Jim Kourtis	Heidelberg United
2000	Danny Gnjidic	Bulleen Zebras
1999	Zlatko Mihajlovic	Springvale WE
1998	Nick Cuculevski	Thomastown Zebras
1997	George Jolevski	Altona Magic
1996	Ike Alagiozidis	Bentleigh Greens
1995	George Svigos	Port Melbourne Sharks
1994	Adrian Pender	Preston Lions
1993	David Cervinski	North Geelong
1992	Fausto De Amicis	Brunswick Juventus
1991	Fabio Incantalupo	Bulleen
1990	Andy Humble	Croydon City
1989	Velimir Kupresak	St Albans
1988	Ivan Duzel	St Albans
1987	Paul Harris	Northcote City
1986	Alex Dick	Frankston Pines
1985	Jimmy MacLean	Morwell Falcons
1984	Steve Smith	Box Hill
1983	Paul Lewis	Green Gully
1982	Peter Lewis	Green Gully
1981	Charlie Egan	Frankston City
1980	Jimmy Dunne	Green Gully
1979	Tommy Cumming	Essendon Croatia
1978	Tommy Cumming	Essendon Croatia
1977	Mick Watkins	Juventus
1976	Jim Tansey	Prahran Slavia
1975	Billy Vojtek	Juventus
1974	Jimmy Armstrong	South Melbourne
1973	Frank Micic	Footscray JUST
1972	John Gardiner	George Cross
1971	Jim Pyrgolios	South Melbourne
1970	David Pygall	Ringwood Wilhelmina
1969	John O'Neill	Hakoah
1968	Jimmy Rooney	Essendon Lions
1967	Frank Micic	Footscray JUST
1966	Peter Aldis	Ringwood Wilhelmina
1965	George Scott	Brunswick Juventus
1964	Frank Micic	Footscray JUST
1963	John Sanchez	Prahan Slavia
1962	Fred Falzon	George Cross
1961	Fred Falzon	George Cross
1960	Vic Janczyk	Polonia
1959	Angus Drennan	Box Hill
1958	Wim Westerveld	Ringwood Wilhelmina
1957	J Macleod	Box Hill
1956	Pepe Cubero	JUST
1956	Bob Wemyss	Polonia
1955	Mario Busidoni	Brunswick Juventus
1954	Maurice Payne	South Yarra

Full list by courtesy of John Punshon and the Ozsoccer website.

The Man himself. Bill Fleming getting praise for once for obtaining more football coverage. Source: Soccer News.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BOB WEMYSS
Former Captain of Victoria and Polonia, and an ARGUS Medallist who has represented Australia in the Olympic Games and in "tour" matches, Bob Wemyss has joined Footscray-Capri and may prove to be the tonic that the team needs.

Bob Wemyss, an early winner of the Bill Fleming Medal in 1956, sharing with Pepe Cubero. Source: Soccer News.

Jim Pyrgolios, the South Melbourne star who won the Bill Fleming Medal in 1971.

Words by Roy Hay

Photos provided by Roy Hay

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TOP THREE TAKE FULL POINTS

Inter, Sandy, Preston make it four from four!

The WPL ladder at this point in time is a perfect reflection of results in Round 4, with the top six positions all being occupied by the victorious teams from the weekend's matches, and the bottom six by those that were defeated.

The big mover of the round was Eltham, which produced the biggest scoreline in the league to date, putting seven unanswered goals past Casey, to kick-start its season in a big way. The top four sides from last week continued all their unbeaten runs, and so there is no change at the top, with Box Hill continuing to lead the way courtesy of goal difference.

Two sides that began the round at the bottom of the ladder, and yet to score a point, met at Anderson Park on Saturday afternoon as Eltham North hosted Casey Comets. Eltham clearly relished its new home venue, and produced the most surprising result of the season so far, routing Casey 7-0. The writing was on the wall for Casey by half time, with the home side having already scored four goals, before adding a further three after the break. Katrina Smith, Deanna Niceski and Enza Barilla each grabbed a brace, with Renee Darmanin notching a single. The result was surprising, not for the fact that Eltham won, but for the sheer magnitude of its victory, given that it had not scored a goal this season prior to this match. Casey's horror start to the season continues, compounded now by its biggest defeat in memory. It finds itself anchored to the bottom of the ladder, while Eltham North moves up to sixth.

Sandringham's unbeaten start to the season continued, as it recorded its fourth straight victory, with even the long trip to Beischer Oval proving no deterrent. Sandringham triumphed 3-0 for the second consecutive week, this time despatching Bendigo Vipers on its home turf. The action all came in the first half, with Paige Dodds, Eliza Gleadell and Lucy Kapusta all on target before half time. Four games into the season, and Sandringham is full of confidence, and it is still yet to concede a goal. The start to the season has been less rosy for Bendigo, which has suffered two straight defeats now since its opening round draw, both without managing to score. Sandringham is second on the ladder, behind Box Hill Inter on goal difference only, with Bendigo back in ninth.

Preston Lions is fast becoming the one goal win specialist, chalking up its third consecutive 1-0 victory, this time over Eastern Lions at Gardiners Creek on Saturday afternoon. Sarah Lovett scored the crucial goal in the second half, to give her side its fourth straight victory and keep it third on the ladder. Eastern Lions, like Bendigo, has struggled since its opening round draw, losing three on the bounce to slip to tenth on the ladder.

Box Hill Inter also maintained its unbeaten start to the season, seeing off the challenge of Keilor Park at Keilor Park Reserve on Sunday. Despite Keilor's disappointing start to the season, it tested the visiting side, and the game was delicately poised at half time, with Inter enjoying a narrow 2-1 victory. However, last season's beaten Grand Finalist showed its quality in the second half, scoring three times to its opponent's once. Amanda Lawless scored twice for Inter, with additional goals by Daniela Digiammarco, Anthea Vardakas and Jessica Humble, while Kerri Little and Teodora Balint were on target for the home side. Box Hill remains atop the WPL ladder on goal difference, with Keilor Park in eleventh, and yet to pick up a point.

Not to be outdone by the other teams continuing their unbeaten runs, Ashburton made it three wins from three with a 5-2 victory over South Melbourne at Bob Jane Stadium. However it was the home side that had the upper hand early on, scoring in the opening minutes of the game, and leading 2-1 into the break through Aimee Benton and Laura Spiranovic, with Christine Pfeiffer scoring for Ashburton. But it was the visiting side that proved the stronger in the second half, scoring four unanswered goals through Kristin Stensholt (2), Seyma Erenli and Annabelle Gibney. The result leaves Ashburton fourth on the ladder, but with a game in hand over the three teams ahead of it. South drops a place to seventh, after its third successive defeat.

Heidelberg United kept itself in touch with the top teams as it chalked up its third win in as many games, defeating GSL 4-1 at Olympic Village. The result keeps it fifth on the ladder, level on points with Ashburton, while GSL is in eighth. The home side did the damage in the first half, with Melanie Camilleri, Tamara Hendriks and Belinda Pannella on target for United, while Kirstie Shearing scored for the visiting GSL side. Heidelberg added one more after half time, through Julia Nicolaci, to seal the victory.

Round 5 gets underway on Friday night, as South Melbourne faces a tough assignment if it is to break its losing streak, when it travels to Wembley Park to take on league leader Box Hill Inter. Saturday's matches pit Preston Lions against GSL at BT Connor Reserve, and Sandringham against Eastern Lions at DISC, with the two home sides attempting to continue their perfect starts to the season. On Sunday, the two unexpected occupants of the bottom two positions on the ladder, Casey Comets and Keilor Park, meet at Comets Stadium in what looms as a must win game for both teams, even at this early stage of the season. Also on Sunday, Ashburton hosts Bendigo Vipers at Ashburton Park, and Eltham North takes on Heidelberg United at Anderson Park.

WPL action: Heidelberg defender Chrissie Baxendale (left) tangles with Michelle De Boer (GSL)

WPL ROUND FOUR RESULTS

Bendigo Vipers 0 Sandringham 3 (P Dodds E Gleadell L Kapusta), **Eltham North 7** (K Smith 2 D Niceski 2 E Barilla 2 RM Darmanin) **Casey Comets 0**, **Eastern Lions 0 Preston Lions 1** (S Lovett), **Keilor Park 2** (K Little T Balint) **Box Hill Inter 5** (D Digiammarco A Vardakas A Lawless 2 J Humble), **South Melbourne 2** (A Benton L Spiranovic) **Ashburton 5** (K Stensholt 2 C Pfeiffer S Erenli A Gibney), **Heidelberg Utd 4** (M Camilleri T Hendriks B Pannella JL Nicolaci) **GSL 1** (KM Shearing).

WPL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Box Hill Inter	4	4	0	0	13	2	12
Sandringham	4	4	0	0	9	0	12
Preston Lions	4	4	0	0	6	1	12
Ashburton	3	3	0	0	9	2	9
Heidelberg Utd	4	3	0	1	12	7	9
Eltham North	3	1	0	2	7	3	3
South Melbourne	4	1	0	3	8	10	3
GSL	3	1	0	2	6	10	3
Bendigo Vipers	3	0	1	2	1	5	1
Eastern Lions	4	0	1	3	1	10	1
Keilor Park	4	0	0	4	3	13	0
Casey Comets	4	0	0	4	2	14	0

WPL ROUND FIVE FIXTURES

Box Hill Inter v South Melbourne
Wembley Park Fri 18 Apr KO 8:30PM

Preston Lions v GSL
Connor Reserve Sat 19 Apr KO 1:00PM

Sandringham v Eastern Lions
DISC Sat 19 Apr KO 3:30PM

Casey Comets v Keilor Park
Comets Stadium Sun 20 Apr KO 1:00PM

Ashburton v Bendigo Vipers
Ashburton Park Sun 20 Apr KO 3:00PM

Eltham North v Heidelberg Utd
Anderson Park Sun 20 Apr KO 8:00PM

By Niki Cook

Photo by John Punshon

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Round 2

GEORGIES HOLD OUT OVER ROYALS

Saints, Hillmen open season accounts

Sunshine Georgies have managed to make it two wins from two outings in the State League First division and lead the standings with maximum points.

The Georgies passed their second tough test since the season began after securing an important 1-0 win at home to the newly formed Bulleen Royals.

The match played in front of 400 people at Chaplin Reserve was somewhat a scrappy affair with neither team willing to give an inch and crunching tackles the order of the day. As is the case with many matches this early in the season the match would be decided on whose fitness levels could last the full ninety minutes.

Thomas Johnston snatched the all important winner for the Georgies and president Charlie Borg had this to say after the match, "It was a commendable game where both sides wanted the points. So far, so good for us. We've played two games, we've won two games and we still hold a clean sheet. You can't be happier than that."

Meanwhile at Ross Reserve in Springvale, a single goal by Rasim Segi was enough to give the Southern Stars its first win of the season following the gutsy draw away to Langwarrin the previous week. Segi proved his worth even though not 100% fit after recently joining Stars after a lay off of four months. The 25 year old striker previously played in the Turkish second division and apparently was on his way to the Central Coast Mariners until things didn't work out. In the meantime, it appears it's a Stars gain.

Segi showed moments of cleverness on the ball and once fully fit could be a strong acquisition to Dean Hennessey's side.

Hennessey said about the match, "It wasn't the best football by either side and we didn't play very well this week compared to last week. It was one of those games where the only bright spot was the fact we actually picked up three points. It's a great result and we feel like we're up and running."

On Friday night the high-flying Kingston City came crashing back down to earth after going down 0-1 at home to FC Clifton Hill. The Hillmen celebrated their first win in Division One and caused Kingston to surrender top spot in the standings after it was unable to back up its opening day 4-1 result.

In other matches to make up the round St Albans were victorius over Keilor park, sending the newcomers to the foot of the table.

Bentleigh Greens held Dandenong Thunder to another draw as the two side were locked at 1-1 after full-time.

at the time of going to press we had yet to receive the score of the Springvale White Eagles and Langwarrin.

St Alban's George Abatzidis is heels over heed after notching the second goal in his side's 2-0 win over Keilor Park yesterday.

By James Taylor

Photos by John Punshon

THIS WEEK'S FIXTURES

Keilor Park v Sunshine Georgies
Keilor Park Reserve Sat 19 Apr KO 3:00PM

Langwarrin v St Albans Saints
Lawton Park Reserve Sat 19 Apr KO 3:00PM

Southern Stars v Kingston City
Ross Reserve Sat 19 Apr KO 3:00PM

Dandenong Thunder v FC Clifton Hill
George Andrews Res Sat 19 Apr KO 7:00PM

Westgate v Springvale White Eagles
Ardeer Reserve Sat 19 Apr KO 7:00PM

Bulleen Royals v Bentleigh Greens
Veneto Social Club Mon 21 Apr KO 8:15PM

DIVISION ONE RESULTS

Kingston City 0 FC Clifton Hill 1 (M Mazzarella), **Southern Stars 1** (R Segi) **Westgate 0, Sunshine Georgies 1** (TE Johnstone) **Bulleen Royals 0, St Albans Saints 2** (J Loncaric G Abatzidis**) Keilor Park 0, Bentleigh Greens 1** (A Rojas) **Dandenong Thunder 1** (X Sulemani)

RESERVE DETAILS

Kingston City 2 FC Clifton Hill 3, Southern Stars 1 Westgate 0, Sunshine Georgies 0 Bulleen Royals 2, St Albans Saints 1 Keilor Park 2, Bentleigh Greens 5 Dandenong Thunder 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Bentleigh Greens	2	2	0	0	11	3	6
Bulleen Royals	2	2	0	0	5	0	6
Keilor Park	2	2	0	0	4	2	6
Southern Stars	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Westgate	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
FC Clifton Hill	2	1	0	1	3	8	3
Langwarrin	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Dandenong Thunder	2	0	1	1	5	7	1
Sunshine Georgies	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Springvale White Eagles	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Kingston City	2	0	0	2	2	5	0
St Albans Saints	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

DIVISION ONE STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Sunshine Georgies	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
Bentleigh Greens	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Southern Stars	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Kingston City	2	1	0	1	4	2	3
Springvale White Eagles	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
St Albans Saints	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Bulleen Royals	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
FC Clifton Hill	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Langwarrin	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Dandenong Thunder	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Westgate	2	0	0	2	1	5	0
Keilor Park	2	0	0	2	0	4	0

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KOFI DANNING

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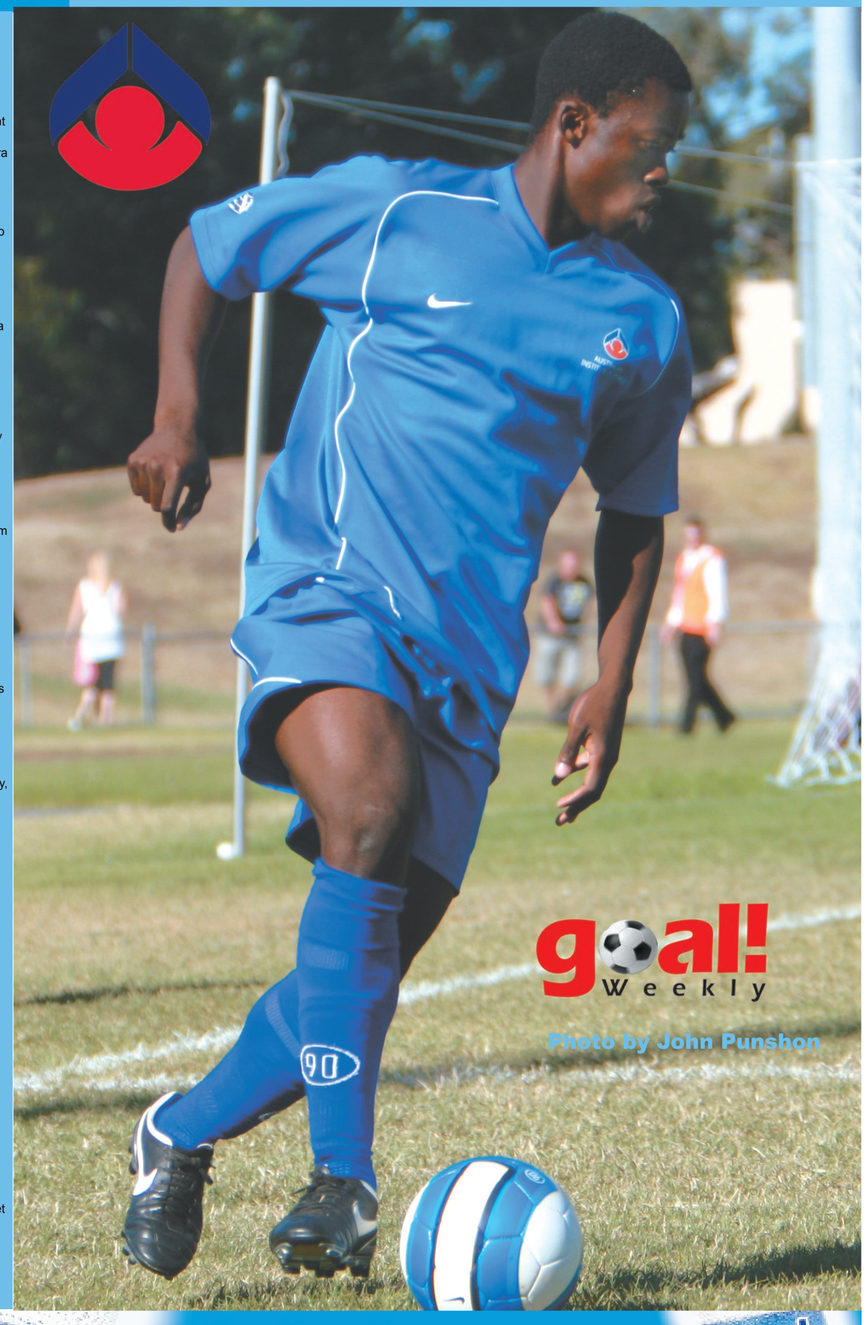
FULL NAME: Kofi Duke Appaiah Danning
BIRTHPLACE: Kumasi, Ghana
HEIGHT: 170cm
WEIGHT: 70kg
MARRIED: No
CAR: Rav4
OCCUPATION OUTSIDE OF FOOTBALL: Student
NICKNAME: The Coffee Man, K-Dog
PREVIOUS CLUBS: O'Connor Knights & Canberra FC
REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS: AIS (2008)
CHILDHOOD FOOTBALL HERO: Ronaldo, Zola
FAVOURITE O/S PLAYER: Michael Essien
FAVOURITE V-LEAGUE PLAYER: First season so don't really know many players
FAVOURITE FORMER SOCCEROO: Johnny Warren
FAVOURITE CURRENT SOCCEROO: Tim Cahill
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A PLAYER:
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A FAN: Australia vs Uruguay World Cup qualifier
MOST MEMORABLE GOAL YOU'VE SCORED: Half way Shot & Scorpion
FUNNIEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL: Watching the referee get hit by the ball in a EPL game.
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Sitting on the sideline with a major injury watching my team play in the final.
WORST INJURY: Hernia in the stomach & pulled my groin
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Luke Devere (AIS)
FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND: Bobe Jane Stadium
SUPERSTITIONS: I have to listen to music every morning to start my day
TYPICAL MATCH DAY MEAL: Bread, Pasta & Salad
WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS: Strong on the ball, taking players on & speed
WHAT ARE YOUR WEAKNESSES: Defending
FAVOURITE TEAM WHEN GROWING UP: Chelsea
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Basketball, Tennis & Athletics
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTSPERSON: Michael Jordan
FAVOURITE FOODS: Chicken schnitzel
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Jessica Alba, Angelina Jolie, Denzel Washington, Eddie Murphy, Will Smitth, Al Pacino & Djimon Hounsou
HOBBIES: Video games & movies
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Don't have one
FAVOURITE NIGHTSPOT: Don't have one
IDEAL DATE: Jessica Alba
FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: The Simpsons, Prison Break
FAVOURITE MUSIC: R&B, Hip-Hop, Techno & Dance Music
FAVOURITE FILM: Remember The Titans
LAST SOCCER SHIRT YOU BOUGHT: Brazilian international shirt
FUNNIEST RUMOUR YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT YOURSELF: Too many to mention
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My former coach and mentor Maladin Barac. He has helped me with my game from a very young, I am very grateful of that because I wouldn't be where I am with out his help and I appreciate him for all the time and effort he put into my game as a coach and as a friend.
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Making the AIS
FOOTBALL AMBITION: My football ambition is to make it big successfully in Europe and to also represent Australia on the international Stage.
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? : I would most like to meet Nelson Mandela because he is one of the most genuine people and is one of my heroes.
YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S V-LEAGUE: The V-league is a good competitive competition with a lot of strong teams and hope it gets better as the year moves on.



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RICHMOND EAGLES

6 - 0

FRANKSTON PINES

EAGLES SEND PINES FOR SIX!

Eagles clinical, Long season for Pines

The opening game of the round saw Richmond host Frankston Pines on Friday night. Richmond were smarting from their first defeat of the season at Whittlesea Zebras just five days earlier, whilst the Pines were still in search of their first win.

Straight from the kick off Frankston sent the ball forward, Eagles keeper Stuart Webster forced off his line and out to the edge of his area to concede a corner as Adam Fadljevic chased down the ball. A minute later a cross from Michael Catalano on the left found Pablo Cardozo at the near post but his volley flashed across the goalmouth.

The Eagles took the lead in just the eighth minute. A free kick just forward of the halfway line on the freeway side saw Shane Rexhepi pick out Jesse Krncevic at the far post. His header back beyond the penalty spot was pounced on by an unmarked Richie Cardozo, who leapt up to header the ball over Nikola Roganovic in the Pines goal for his fifth goal of the season.

The Pines went close to scoring shortly after, Webster having difficulty handling a free-kick from from Craig Metcalfe and having to push the ball around the post. On fifteen minutes Richie Cardozo had a strike from thirty yards saved by Roganovic, before Metcalfe crossed to Cameron Leopold who's effort was saved by Webster.

The action really heated up in the twentieth minute, after Semir Sivic switched the ball across field from right to left, finding Dimitri Tsiaras as almost the only player in the Richmond attacking half. Roganovic came off his line attempting to clear the bouncing ball by foot as he reached the end of the penalty area, bringing down Tsiaras. Tsiaras required treatment for injuries to an arm and ribs whilst Roganovic was ushered aside and eventually shown a red card by referee Jim Zafirou. With no goalkeeper amongst the five substitutes, Pines skipper Cameron Leopold donned the gloves for the remainder of the game.

From the resulting free-kick, taken in the twenty-fifth minute, Pablo Cardozo's shot was blocked and the ball fell to Zoran Cvetkovski. The Eagles midfielder blasted a rocket-like strike into the top corner of the goal from twenty-five yards in what will surely be a Chanel 31 Victorian Football Show Covo Goal of the Week contender.

Craig Smart had a shot deflected wide for Frankston when play resumed. In the thirty-third minute a cross from Sivic was headed in by Krncevic from twelve yards to make it 3-0.

Nick Waite headed a corner from Metcalfe over two minutes later, the score remaining unchanged through to the interval.

It didn't take long for Richmond to extend the lead after the break, with Pablo Cardozo scoring three minutes into the second half. Catalano switched the ball from the left to Richie Cardozo just beyond the far post. He then lobbed the ball back to the middle of the goal for Pablo Cardozo to sweep it past Leopold just inside the post.

The Pines fought hard to contain the home side, and the next scoring chance didn't fall until the sixty-ninth minute when substitute Nick Kalambokis struck the post with a shot from the edge of the box. A minute later Leopold pulled of a great save to deny Kalambokis. A frantic Eagles attacking spell ended farcically a minute later, when Kalambokis passed to Krncevic when he had the goal at his mercy himself. Krncevic then hit the post from inside six yards before a freak bounce killed off any chance of Pablo Cardozo doing anything with the rebound.

Leo Trebbia was just wide with a shot for Frankston from thirty-five yards out in the seventy-eighth minute. Richie Cardozo headed well wide after a cross from Kalambokis as both sides made full use of their benches with over ten minutes remaining.

In the eighty-sixth minute a clearance from Noel Bahnsen saw the bounce beat a defender on the halfway line, allowing Richie Cardozo to run onto it totally in the clear. He ran into the box, rounded Leopold and virtually walked the ball over the line to make it 5-0.

Just a minute later, a more deliberate pass from Bahnsen again put Richie Cardozo clear in open space, and he raced into the area and coolly slotted the ball past Leopold to notch his hat-trick and bring up a 6-0 win.

Richmond: S.Webster, A.Lines, S.Rexhepi, S.McCluskey, D.Tsiaras (N.Kalambokis 56'), J.Krncevic, S.Sivic, R.Cardozo, P.Cardozo (C.Greechan 73'), M.Catalano, Z.Cvetkovski (N.Bahnsen 78').

Goals: R.Cardozo 8'86'87' Cvetkovski 25' Krncevic 33' P.Cardozo 48'

Yellow Cards: Krncevic 33' Lines 41' P.Cardozo 52'
Red Cards: None

Franlston Pines: N.Roganovic, R.Duckworth, D.Black, L.Trebbia, C.Jones, C.Smart, J.Reichnein, A.Fadljevic (A.Skledar 73'), C.Leopold, C.Metcalfe (B.Ovcin 55'), N.Waite (D.Miller 75').

Goals: None

Yelow Cards: None
Red Cards: Roganovic 23'

Man of the Match: Zoran Cvetkovski (Richmond)

Venue: Kevin Bartlett Reserve
Crowd: 300

The flying flock! Richmond Eagles keeper Stuart Webster joins Shane Rexhepi (4), Semir Sivic (8) and scorer Zoran Cvetkovski (15) in the 6-0 route of Frankston Pines at Kevin Bartlett reserve on Friday night.

By Mark Boric
Photos by John Punshon

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GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS

2 - 1

OAKLEIGH CANNONS

SPARKS FLY AT GREEN GULLY

Dobbo sent off, Cannons sent packing

In a remarkable boliover in round eight of the Foxtel Cup, the Green Gully Cavaliers have beaten the previously unbeaten Oakleigh Cannons 2-1 at Green Gully Reserve.

It was a remarkable performance by the home team, who had their coach Ian Dobson sent from the ground after just 30 minutes of play, and their central defender Mile Medjedovic sent off with 30 minutes remaining in the second half. The game started like a Western Cowboy shootout.

Frankie Lagana should have scored the opener when he was through on goal, but super goalkeeper Steven Tilovski saved his shot at point blank range.

Shortly after Gully had a few chances of their own through Kristijan Ivesic's darting runs at the Oakleigh Defense.

It was Andy Vargas who opened the scoring, his chip over Adrian Cagalj and deciding header seemed like a lot more effort than was required, but equally as impressive in the skill department. At the other end of the ground, both Bill Damianos and Frankie Lagana agonisingly saw their freekick efforts rebound off Steven Tilovski's right hand post. Kole Delev was an early substitute for Dragi Nastevski in the first half and was called upon for some diving header clearances as soon as he stepped foot on the pitch. The first half ended with a pseudo

mellee, as Kristijan Ivesic was forcefully brought to ground contentiously just outside the Oakleigh Cannons area, the resulting freekick chance was cleared by the Cannons.

As a fuming Green Gully coach Ian Dobson had to invent new methods of communication to his bench, the Cavaliers embarked on a second half to remember.

The game flowed evenly in the second half, as both teams did not hold anything back in attacking goal. Manny Muscat came on the ground and made an immediate impact down the right flank, beating the Oakleigh midfield and fullback for dead in whipping in some dangerous crosses.

With an hour of play gone, Mile Medjedovic raised his foot to clear a loose ball, Cannons forward Nilo challenged with his head and no prizes for guessing hit the deck like a sack of potatoes. Mile was given his marching orders, perhaps rather harshly so. Koce Delev came on for Campbell Banks and Gully had their work cut out to hang onto their 1-0 lead. That they did. Manny Muscat again slaughtered the left side of Oakleigh's playing roster, and put a ball on a platter for Joel Nikolic to cooly slot Gully into a 2-0 lead. Bill Damianos scored a late consulation goal for the visitors, but it was too little too late. Gully join Oakleigh and Richmond at the top of the table.

In the under 21's, Gully won their 7th match out of 8, winning 2-0 against Oakleigh and joined.

Green Gully coach Ian Dobson sees red and receives his marching orders on Saturday.

Oakleigh Cannons' Trent Waterson and Green Gully's Andy Vargas compare handbags in the top of the table clash.

Green Gully Cavaliers 2
(Andy Vargas 20, Joel Nikolic 70)
Oakleigh Cannons 1 (Bill Damianos 90)

Best on Ground :
Steven Tilovski
(Green Gully)

Crowd: 800
Venue: Green Gully Reserve

Green Gully
23 Steven Tilovski, 2 Kristijan Ivesic, 3 Steven Burton, 4 Dean Fak, 7 Fleming Jeffrey, 9 Campbell Banks, 14 Ryan Ollerton, 15 Dragi Nastevski, 16 Mile Medjedovic, 17 Andy Vargas, 18 Joel Nikolic
----
00Patric Ndongo, 6 Kole Delev
10 Koce Delev, 12 Matthew Sanders, 12 Emmanuel Muscat

Oakleigh Cannons:
1 Adrian Cagalj, 5 Felix Rosman, 14 Trent Waterson, 16 Frankie Lagana, 25 Scott Webster, 6 Stelios Drakos, 18 Bill Damianos, 3 John Munoz, 2 Adam Ewin, 11 Juan Nilo, 10 Taziarhis Apostolikas
----
31 David Bray, 7 Scott Macnicol, 17 Ihor Khrapko, 15 Stuart Kelly, 20 Aristidis Drakos.

By Markian Jaworsky
Photos by Steve Starek

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ROUND TWO

Seniors — NORTH WEST 2 — Reserves

Brunswick City 4 (C Vouloumanos CD Sanita N Ismail 2) Moreland City 1 (P Bossio R Dinse), Altona City 0 North Geelong Warriors 1 (A Cervinski), Werribee City 1 (T Batur) Altona East Phoenix 1 (M Tolli), Ballarat Red Devils 2 (J Romein AB Lymn) Williamstown 1 (A Dimitrijevic), Cairnlea 0 Pascoe Vale 2 (R Di Vitto DA Genovesi), Maribyrnong Greens 0 Thomastown Devils 5 (O Ayache 2 DL Cicivelli L Santilli 2),

Brunswick City 0 Moreland City 2, Altona City 5 North Geelong Warriors 0, Werribee City 1 Altona East Phoenix 1, Ballarat Red Devils 8 Williamstown 2, Cairnlea 4 Pascoe Vale 2, Maribyrnong Greens 1 Thomastown Devils 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Ballarat Red Devils	2	2	0	0	6	1	5	6
2 Brunswick City	2	2	0	0	5	1	4	6
3 Nth Geelong Warriors	2	2	0	0	4	1	3	6
4 Pascoe Vale	2	2	0	0	3	0	3	6
5 Altona East Phoenix	2	1	1	0	6	1	5	4
6 Thomastown Devils	2	1	0	1	5	4	1	3
7 Williamstown	2	1	0	1	2	2	0	3
8 Werribee City	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	1
9 Cairnlea	2	0	0	2	0	3	-3	0
10 Moreland City	2	0	0	2	2	7	-5	0
11 Altona City	2	0	0	2	0	6	-6	0
12 Maribyrnong Greens	2	0	0	2	0	6	-6	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Altona City	2	2	0	0	8	0	8	6
2 Cairnlea	2	2	0	0	5	2	3	6
3 Moreland City	2	2	0	0	4	1	3	6
4 Thomastown Devils	2	2	0	0	5	3	2	6
5 Ballarat Red Devils	2	1	0	1	10	5	5	3
6 Pascoe Vale	2	1	0	1	3	4	-1	3
7 Williamstown	2	1	0	1	5	10	-5	3
8 Werribee City	2	0	1	1	3	4	-1	1
9 Altona East Phoenix	2	0	1	1	1	4	-3	1
10 Maribyrnong Greens	2	0	0	2	1	3	-2	0
11 Brunswick City	2	0	0	2	0	3	-3	0
12 Nth Geelong Warriors	2	0	0	2	1	7	-6	0

Seniors — SOUTH EAST 2 — Reserves

Port Melbourne 4 (L Toman S Tolli S Pitruzzello O KHRAPKO) Waverley Wanderers 1 (S Aydogan), Chelsea 0 Doncaster Rovers 4 (R Ardesi S Alinejad S Murat F Korkaric), South Springvale 1 (I Diniotis) Knox City 0, Stonnington City 1 (P Madondo) Eastern Lions 0, Peninsula Strikers 2 (M Demirkol B Frankel) Northcote City 3 (J Triantopoulos T Rixon 2), Casey Comets 1 (D Terek) Diamond Valley Utd 1 (WM Dixon)

Port Melbourne 3 Waverley Wanderers 3, Chelsea 2 Doncaster Rovers 0, South Springvale 0 Knox City 2, Stonnington City 2 Eastern Lions 2, Peninsula Strikers 2 Northcote City 0, Casey Comets 3 Diamond Valley Utd 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Doncaster Rovers	2	2	0	0	9	1	8	6
2 Northcote City	2	2	0	0	6	3	3	6
3 Knox City	2	1	0	1	4	1	3	3
4 Eastern Lions	2	1	0	1	3	1	2	3
5 Chelsea	2	1	0	1	5	5	0	3
6 Port Melbourne	2	1	0	1	4	5	-1	3
7 Waverley Wanderers	2	1	0	1	4	6	-2	3
8 South Springvale	2	1	0	1	1	3	-2	3
9 Stonnington City	2	1	0	1	2	5	-3	3
10 Casey Comets	2	0	1	1	2	4	-2	1
11 Diamond Valley Utd	2	0	1	1	2	6	-4	1
12 Peninsula Strikers	2	0	0	2	4	6	-2	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Knox City	2	2	0	0	7	0	7	6
2 Chelsea	2	2	0	0	5	2	3	6
3 Peninsula Strikers	2	2	0	0	4	1	3	6
4 Eastern Lions	2	1	1	0	4	3	1	4
5 Doncaster Rovers	2	1	0	1	6	2	4	3
6 Casey Comets	2	1	0	1	5	4	1	3
7 Northcote City	2	1	0	1	3	4	-1	3
8 Waverley Wanderers	2	0	1	1	4	5	-1	1
9 Port Melbourne	2	0	1	1	3	8	-5	1
10 Stonnington City	2	0	1	1	2	8	-6	1
11 Diamond Valley Utd	2	0	0	2	3	6	-3	0
12 South Springvale	2	0	0	2	1	4	-3	0

Seniors — NORTH WEST 3 — Reserves

Sunbury Utd 0 Lalor 2 (K Vaskoski D Petkovski), Lalor Utd 1 (M Jurukovski) Geelong 5 (J Agius 2), Laverton Park 1 (J Sobarzo) Banyule City 2 (I Hadzi Nikolov S Patikkis), La Trobe University 0 Sydenham Park 0, Westvale 4 (DJ Sfetcopoulos S Habibovic D Mingovski 2) Geelong Rangers 2 (T Hardy D McCallum), Yarraville Glory 1 (A Tsirtsakis) North Sunshine Eagles 4 (D Huseyin 2 K Ristevski 2),

Sunbury Utd 1 Lalor 0, Lalor Utd 2 Geelong 0, Laverton Park 2 Banyule City 0, La Trobe University 2 Sydenham Park 1, Westvale 1 Geelong Rangers 0, Yarraville Glory 2 North Sunshine Eagles 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Geelong	2	2	0	0	7	1	6	6
2 North Sunshine Eagles	2	1	1	0	5	2	3	4
3 La Trobe University	2	1	1	0	3	2	1	4
4 Banyule City	2	1	1	0	2	1	1	4
5 Lalor	2	2	0	0	4	1	3	3
6 Westvale	2	1	0	1	5	4	1	3
7 Geelong Rangers	2	1	0	1	5	5	0	3
8 Sydenham Park	2	0	2	0	1	1	0	2
9 Lalor Utd	2	0	1	1	1	5	-4	1
10 Laverton Park	2	0	0	2	3	5	-2	0
11 Sunbury Utd	2	0	0	2	0	4	-4	0
12 Yarraville Glory	2	0	0	2	2	7	-5	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 La Trobe University	2	2	0	0	7	3	4	6
2 Yarravile Glory	2	1	1	0	5	4	1	4
3 Westvale	2	1	1	0	3	2	1	4
4 Lalor Utd	2	1	0	1	4	3	1	3
5 Geelong	2	1	0	1	2	2	0	3
6 Laverton Park	2	1	0	1	4	5	-1	3
7 Banyule City	2	1	0	1	3	4	-1	3
8 Sunbury Utd	2	1	0	1	1	2	-1	3
9 North Sunshine Eagles	2	0	2	0	5	5	0	2
10 Sydenham Park	2	0	1	1	4	5	-1	1
11 Geelong Rangers	2	0	0	2	2	4	-2	0
12 Lalor	2	0	1	1	2	3	-1	-2

Seniors — SOUTH EAST 3 — Reserves

Sandringham City 0 Croydon City Arrows 2 (M Zoppos 2), Boroondara Eagles 3 (NS Cunningham D Marino 2) Endeavour Utd 2 (D Ithier P Sequeira), Heatherton Utd 0 Morwell Pegasus 1 (M Oliver), Southern Suburbs 2 (DA Mota P Psarros) Springvale City 1 (A Lolic), Berwick City 2 (J Fernand OA Mejias) Doveton 3 (R Ulusoy)

Sandringham City 2 Croydon City Arrows 1, Boroondara Eagles 1 Endeavour Utd 0, Heatherton Utd 0 Morwell Pegasus 2, Southern Suburbs 2 Springvale City 1, Berwick City 1 Doveton 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Doveton	2	1	1	0	5	4	1	4
2 Southern Suburbs	2	1	1	0	3	2	1	4
3 Morwell Pegasus	2	1	1	0	2	1	1	4
4 Croydon City Arrows	2	1	0	1	3	2	1	3
5 Sandringham City	2	1	0	1	3	2	1	3
6 Springvale City	2	1	0	1	3	3	0	3
7 Boroondara Eagles	2	1	0	1	3	5	-2	3
8 Brandon Park	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	1
9 North Caulfield	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
10 Endeavour Utd	2	0	1	1	4	5	-1	1
11 Berwick City	2	0	1	1	3	4	-1	1
12 Heatherton Utd	2	0	1	1	2	3	-1	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Boroondara Eagles	2	2	0	0	3	1	2	6
2 Doveton	2	1	1	0	3	1	2	4
3 Southern Suburbs	2	1	1	0	5	4	1	4
4 Morwell Pegasus	2	1	0	1	2	1	1	3
5 North Caulfield	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
6 Brandon Park	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
7 Croydon City Arrows	2	1	0	1	3	3	0	3
8 Sandringham City	2	1	0	1	3	3	0	3
9 Berwick City	2	0	2	0	4	4	0	2
10 Springvale City	2	0	0	2	2	4	-2	0
11 Endeavour Utd	2	0	0	2	0	2	-2	0
12 Heatherton Utd	2	0	0	2	0	4	-4	0

Seniors — PROVI 1 NORTH WEST — Reserves

Avondale Heights 2 (M Jancic LM Gugliandolo) Melbourne City 1 (JL Ventureira), Elwood City 2 (J Oakes IM Jones) Western Eagles 0, Melbourne University Rangers 1 (FR Lamari) South Yarra 0, Glenroy 2 (J Markovac A Babo) Corio 0, Hume Utd 1 (B Moran) Whittlesea Utd 0, Plenty Valley Lions 2 (D Stojanovski J Lazorov) Melbourne Tornado 1 (J Saldanha)

Avondale Heights 4 Melbourne City 1, Elwood City 3 Western Eagles 1, Melbourne University Rangers 1 South Yarra 1, Glenroy 0 Corio 3, Hume Utd 1 Whittlesea Utd 1, Plenty Valley Lions 1 Melbourne Tornado 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Melb University Rangers	2	2	0	0	3	0	3	6
2 Hume Utd	2	2	0	0	3	1	2	6
3 Elwood City	2	1	1	0	2	0	2	4
4 Avondale Heights	2	1	1	0	3	2	1	4
5 Plenty Valley Lions	2	1	1	0	3	2	1	4
6 Glenroy	2	2	0	0	4	0	4	3
7 Whittlesea Utd	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	1
8 South Yarra	2	0	1	1	0	1	-1	1
9 Western Eagles	2	0	1	1	1	3	-2	1
10 Melbourne City	2	0	0	2	2	4	-2	0
11 Melbourne Tornado	2	0	0	2	1	4	-3	0
12 Corio	2	0	0	2	0	4	-4	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Plenty Valley Lions	2	2	0	0	5	0	5	6
2 Avondale Heights	2	2	0	0	6	2	4	6
3 Melb Uni Rangers	2	1	1	0	7	2	5	4
4 South Yarra	2	1	1	0	4	1	3	4
5 Melbourne Tornado	2	1	0	1	2	2	0	3
6 Elwood City	2	1	0	1	3	4	-1	3
7 Corio	2	1	0	1	4	6	-2	3
8 Hume Utd	2	0	2	0	2	2	0	2
9 Melbourne City	2	0	1	1	2	5	-3	1
10 Whittlesea Utd	2	0	1	1	1	5	-4	1
11 Western Eagles	2	0	0	2	2	5	-3	0
12 Glenroy	2	0	0	2	1	5	-4	-3

Seniors — PROVI 1 SOUTH EAST — Reserves

Monbulk 2 (B Adams C Cullimore) Monash University 0, Nunawading City 1 (CK Stemn Jnr) Noble Park Utd 1 (Z Seci), Warragul Utd 0 Old Melburnians 1 (A Carmody), Scotch Old Boys 3 (JP Clark CI Harley) Fitzroy City 1 (D Jovic), Rowville Eagles 2 (HK Humzy A Horj) White Star Dandenong 1 (L Szwed), Mooroolbark 3 (M Cauteruccio S Topali S Lombardi) Ashburton 2 (C Prountzos L Delaney)

Monbulk 1 Monash University 1, Nunawading City 3 Noble Park Utd 2, Warragul Utd 3 Old Melburnians 0, Scotch Old Boys 3 Fitzroy City 3, Rowville Eagles 1 White Star Dandenong 0, Mooroolbark 3 Ashburton 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Monbulk	2	2	0	0	6	1	5	6
2 Scotch Old Boys	2	2	0	0	5	1	4	6
3 Noble Park Utd	2	1	1	0	6	2	4	4
4 Mooroolbark	2	1	1	0	4	3	1	4
5 Nunawading City	2	1	1	0	3	2	1	4
6 Old Melburnians	2	1	0	1	2	2	0	3
7 Rowville Eagles	2	1	0	1	3	5	-2	3
8 Warragul Utd	2	0	1	1	2	3	-1	1
9 White Star Dandenong	2	0	1	1	2	3	-1	1
10 Fitzroy City	2	0	1	1	3	5	-2	1
11 Ashburton	2	0	0	2	2	5	-3	0
12 Monash University	2	0	0	2	1	7	-6	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Mooroolbark	2	2	0	0	5	2	3	6
2 Nunawading City	2	2	0	0	6	4	2	6
3 Monash University	2	1	1	0	3	1	2	4
4 Monbulk	2	1	1	0	3	1	2	4
5 Fitzroy City	2	1	1	0	5	4	1	4
6 Warragul Utd	2	1	0	1	4	2	2	3
7 Ashburton	2	1	0	1	4	4	0	3
8 Rowville Eagles	2	1	0	1	1	2	-1	3
9 Scotch Old Boys	2	0	1	1	4	5	-1	1
10 Noble Park Utd	2	0	0	2	2	5	-3	0
11 White Star Dandenong	2	0	0	2	0	3	-3	0
12 Old Melburnians	2	0	0	2	2	6	-4	0

Seniors — PROVI 2 NORTH WEST — Reserves

Collingwood City 4 (S Jervis M Serapiglia C Tzoumanekas R Martin) Melton 2 (S Paddon S Mamo), Keon Park 2 (F Tranchitella S Kalona) Brimbank City 0, West Preston 2 (T Emtsis G Athanassopoulos) Darebin Utd 1 (T Altun), North City Lions 2 (J Sweeney) Moreland Utd 2 (E Inglesi 2), Bell Park 2 (E Lawrence F Quaranta) Hoppers Crossing 0, Essendon Utd 1 (A Imvriotis) Northern Falcons 0

Collingwood City 2 Melton 2, Keon Park 1 Brimbank City 1, West Preston 4 Darebin Utd 1, North City Lions 4 Moreland Utd 1, Bell Park 0 Hoppers Crossing 3, Essendon Utd 2 Northern Falcons 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Collingwood City	2	2	0	0	7	2	5	6
2 Essendon Utd	2	2	0	0	4	1	3	6
3 Keon Park	2	2	0	0	3	0	3	6
4 West Preston	2	2	0	0	4	2	2	6
5 North City Lions	2	1	1	0	3	2	1	4
6 Bell Park	2	1	0	1	3	3	0	3
7 Hoppers Crossing	2	1	0	1	1	2	-1	3
8 Moreland Utd	2	0	1	1	3	4	-1	1
9 Darebin Utd	2	0	0	2	1	3	-2	0
10 Northern Falcons	2	0	0	2	0	2	-2	0
11 Melton	2	0	0	2	2	5	-3	0
12 Brimbank City	2	0	0	2	0	5	-5	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 West Preston	2	2	0	0	8	2	6	6
2 Keon Park	2	1	1	0	5	2	3	4
3 Melton	2	1	1	0	4	2	2	4
4 Northern Falcons	2	1	1	0	4	2	2	4
5 Brimbank City	2	1	1	0	3	1	2	4
6 Essendon Utd	2	1	1	0	3	2	1	4
7 North City Lions	2	1	0	1	4	3	1	3
8 Hoppers Crossing	2	1	0	1	3	2	1	3
9 Collingwood City	2	0	1	1	2	4	-2	1
10 Bell Park	2	0	0	2	0	4	-4	0
11 Darebin Utd	2	0	0	2	2	8	-6	0
12 Moreland Utd	2	0	0	2	2	8	-6	0

Seniors — PROVI 2 SOUTH EAST — Reserves

Keysborough 1 (D Popa) Old Brighton Grammarians 3 (M Strintzos D Hall M Cameron), Caulfield Utd 2 (C Balkos O Tufan) Dandenong Sparrows 0, Lyndale Utd 3 (P Hanna G Andrieri J Whiteside) Mornington 3 (DJ Waite 2 C Wright), Riversdale 0 Carrum Utd 1 (M Cordoma), Whitehorse Utd 0 Berwick Kings 1 (Z Kecojevic), Old Trinity Grammarians 0 Old Camberwell Grammar 1 (D Gamvrellis)

Keysborough 1 Old Brighton Grammarians 3, Caulfield Utd 4 Dandenong Sparrows 0, Lyndale Utd 3 Mornington 3, Riversdale 6 Carrum Utd 0, Whitehorse Utd 1 Berwick Kings 0, Old Trinity Grammarians 0 Old Camberwell Grammar 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Old Camberwell Gramm	2	2	0	0	3	0	3	6
2 Old Brighton Gramm	2	1	1	0	3	1	2	4
3 Mornington	2	1	1	0	6	5	1	4
4 Lyndale Utd	2	1	1	0	4	3	1	4
5 Caulfield Utd	2	1	0	1	4	3	1	3
6 Berwick Kings	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
7 Whitehorse Utd	2	0	1	1	0	1	-1	1
8 Keysborough	2	0	1	1	1	3	-2	1
9 Dandenong Sparrows	2	0	1	1	0	2	-2	1
10 Carrum Utd	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0
11 Old Trinity Gramm	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0
12 Riversdale	1	0	0	1	0	3	-3	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Riversdale	2	2	0	0	9	2	7	6
2 Caulfield Utd	2	2	0	0	7	2	5	6
3 Old Brighton Gramm	2	2	0	0	4	1	3	6
4 Old Camberwell Gram	2	1	0	1	3	3	0	3
5 Whitehorse Utd	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	3
6 Dandenong Sparrows	2	1	0	1	3	5	-2	3
7 Carrum Utd	2	1	0	1	3	7	-4	3
8 Mornington	2	0	1	1	5	6	-1	1
9 Lyndale Utd	2	0	1	1	4	6	-2	1
10 Old Trinity Gramm	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0
11 Berwick Kings	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0
12 Keysborough	2	0	0	2	2	6	-4	0

Seniors — PROVI 3 NORTH WEST — Reserves

Watsonia Heights 3 (A Seeley R Duerden E Santone) Youth Utd 2, Northern Utd 0 Dallas Eagles 0, Mill Park 0 Brunswick Zebras 3 (L Hayes J Luca BS Holod), Brimbank 4 (J D'Alessi 3 M Synak) Ascot Vale 0, Epping City 5 (M Nerone S Giacomin C Spaliaras 3) Surf Coast 0, Moreland Wolves 0 Bundoora Utd 1 (C Sidiropoulos)

Watsonia Heights 2 Youth Utd 1, Northern Utd 3 Dallas Eagles 1, Mill Park 1 Brunswick Zebras 4, Brimbank 2 Ascot Vale 1, Epping City 5 Surf Coast 1, Moreland Wolves 4 Bundoora Utd 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Epping City	2	2	0	0	10	2	8	6
2 Watsonia Heights	2	2	0	0	7	2	5	6
3 Brimbank	2	1	1	0	7	3	4	4
4 Bundoora Utd	2	1	1	0	4	3	1	4
5 Northern Utd	2	1	1	0	2	1	1	4
6 Brunswick Zebras	2	1	0	1	4	2	2	3
7 Moreland Wolves	2	1	0	1	2	2	0	3
8 Mill Park	2	1	0	1	3	4	-1	3
9 Youth Utd	2	0	0	2	4	8	-4	0
10 Surf Coast	2	0	0	2	1	7	-6	0
11 Ascot Vale	2	0	0	2	1	7	-6	0
12 Dallas Eagles	2	0	1	1	0	4	-4	-2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Epping City	2	2	0	0	12	1	11	6
2 Brunswick Zebras	2	2	0	0	8	2	6	6
3 Watsonia Heights	2	2	0	0	7	2	5	6
4 Moreland Wolves	2	2	0	0	7	4	3	6
5 Brimbank	2	2	0	0	4	2	2	6
6 Northern Utd	2	1	0	1	4	5	-1	3
7 Ascot Vale	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	1
8 Mill Park	2	0	1	1	1	4	-3	1
9 Bundoora Utd	2	0	0	2	4	6	-2	0
10 Surf Coast	2	0	0	2	2	8	-6	0
11 Youth Utd	2	0	0	2	1	9	-8	0
12 Dallas Eagles	2	0	0	2	2	8	-6	-3

Seniors — PROVI 3 SOUTH EAST — Reserves

Noble Park 2 (A Kovaceski A Buhac) Bayside Argonauts 1 (A Lafasanidis), Beaumaris 4 (D Jackson DM Cappellari 2 M Runnalls) Old Carey 1 (D MacDonald), Seaford Utd 3 (P Carr B Darmon 2) Keilor Wolves 1, Dandenong City 5 (M Boruntia K Hasanzada Z Opsenica JM Botha 2) Endeavour Hills 3 (D Knell D Marie N Sifflet), Brighton 3 (A Greatorex A Lark H Campos) Dandenong Warriors

Noble Park 0 Bayside Argonauts 3, Beaumaris 0 Old Carey 1, Seaford Utd 1 Keilor Wolves 1, Dandenong City 5 Endeavour Hills 1, Brighton 1 Dandenong Warriors 0, Uni. of Melbourne 1 Eltham North 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Beaumaris	1	1	0	0	4	1	3	3
2 Dandenong City	1	1	0	0	5	3	2	3
3 Uni. of Melbourne	2	1	0	1	5	3	2	3
4 Dandenong Warriors	2	1	0	1	5	4	1	3
5 Seaford Utd	2	1	0	1	4	3	1	3
6 Brighton	2	1	0	1	5	5	0	3
7 Bayside Argonauts	2	1	0	1	4	4	0	3
8 Endeavour Hills	2	1	0	1	5	6	-1	3
9 Old Carey	2	1	0	1	4	5	-1	3
10 Noble Park	2	1	0	1	3	4	-1	0
11 Keilor Wolves	1	0	0	1	1	3	-2	0
12 Eltham North	1	0	0	1	0	4	-4	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Old Carey	2	2	0	0	10	1	9	6
2 Bayside Argonauts	2	2	0	0	5	0	5	6
3 Seaford Utd	2	1	1	0	12	1	11	4
4 Dandenong City	1	1	0	0	5	1	4	3
5 Eltham North	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
6 Dandenong Warriors	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	3
7 Brighton	2	1	0	1	1	2	-1	3
8 Keilor Wolves	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
9 Beaumaris	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0
10 Uni. of Melbourne	2	0	0	2	1	3	-2	0
11 Endeavour Hills	2	0	0	2	1	16	-15	0
12 Noble Park	2	0	0	2	1	12	-11	-3

ResultsVault football

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ROUND 3 FIXTURES

All matches to be played on Saturday 19th April with 3pm KO unless otherwise stated.

State 2 NW
Thomastown Devils v Pascoe Vale
Epping Soccer Stadium
Williamstown v Maribyrnong Greens
JT Gray Reserve
Altona East Phoenix v Ballarat Red Devils
Paisley Park Soccer Complex
North Geelong Warriors v Werribee City
Elcho Park
Brunswick City v Altona City
Dunstan Reserve
Cairnlea v Moreland City
Cairnlea Park

State 2 SE
Doncaster Rovers v Casey Comets
Anderson Park Fri 18 Apr KO 8:30PM
Port Melbourne v Peninsula Strikers
SS Anderson Reserve Fri 18 Apr KO 8:30PM
Northcote City v Diamond Valley Utd
John Cain Memorial Park
Eastern Lions v Chelsea
Gardiners Creek Reserve
Knox City v Stonnington City
Egan Lee Reserve
Waverley Wanderers v South Springvale
Carlson Reserve

State 3 NW
North Sunshine Eagles v Geelong Rangers
Larissa Reserve
La Trobe University v Yarraville Glory
Latrobe Uni Lower Playing Fld
Banyule City v Sydenham Park
Yallambie Park Reserve
Geelong v Laverton Park
Stead Park Reserve
Lalor v Lalor Utd
RGC Cook Reserve
Sunbury Utd v Westvale
Langama Park

State 3 SE
Doveton v Southern Suburbs
Waratah Reserve
**Morwell Pegasus v Berwick City

KNOX PAY THE PENALTY

South Springvale 1
Knox City 0

This was a game decided by penalties awarded and not awarded.

South Springvale were awarded one in the 65th minute and scored the only goal of the game from it. Knox City had three strong appeals turned down, one of them in the 60th minute which looked a clear cut case but the referee had none of it.

Knox had the better of the game and had they shown some better determination in close to goal, they would surely have got something from this game. Twice Tony Sango in the South's goal made excellent one handed stops at full length, but neither time did the Knox forwards follow through as quickly as they should have. On the second occasion, Sango was quick enough to get up and push the resultant shot round for a corner.

The first half saw Knox kicking down the hill and they had enough of the ball to go into the break with a lead that would have been deserved. Buljabasic fired over from long range and Hingert's volley from Saunders' cross was diverted for a corner by some desperate defending.

Dionotis had the best chance of the half for the home side but screwed his shot wide of the post.

The second half saw the game open up more and both sides had their chances to score from open play. A flowing move from Knox down the right flank resulted in a cross from Hingert that just eluded the incoming forwards.

At the other end McEvoy had to come out to smother a shot from Panaghis.

In the 60th minute came one of the game's defining moments. Nedza received the ball in the area and as he turned his legs were taken from under him in what looked like a clear tackle from behind. The referee waved play on but 5 minutes later at the other end, he was more charitable to the home side when Peter Veljovic was adjudged to have fouled Koloskopis.

Dionotis put away the spot kick for the only goal of the match.
The controversy had not finished as firstly Kerr was brought down and the referee awarded a free kick on the very edge of the area, with the Knox players claiming it was inside the box. Later a further penalty appeal was turned down when Hingert skipped into the area and fell under a challenge but this time the referee looked to have got it right as the defender appeared to just win the ball.

As Knox pressed forward some gaps appeared at the back and Dionotis could have doubled the lead, whilst Nick Veljovic pushed forward but was denied by the crossbar when his header beat Sango.

South Springvale: T. Sango, R. Swingler, A. Savvas, B. Karaga, C. Palatsides (D. Paulic – 74th), S. Catherine (C. Tsetsos – 90th), I. Dionotis, A. Koloskopis, M. Panaghis, K. Harbis, A. Georgoulis. Subs not used: S. Eleftheriou, C. Antoniou.

Knox City: K. McEvoy, A. Edgar, C. Kerr, P. Veljovic, N. Veljovic, J. Hingert, M. Hoogendyk (L. Grubic – 72nd), Z. Buljabasic (Z. Martinez – 80th), A. Saunders, J. Valadon, P. Nedza. Subs not used – G. Moon, M. Donkin.

State League Div 2 SE
By Bruce Darnell

STARS GET HOME OVER WESTGATE

Southern Stars 1
Westagate 0

" Bad day in the office but a good result,"was the way Southern Stars coach Dean Hennessy described his team's 1-0 home win over Westgate City on Saturday.

Striker Rasim Sezgi's 31 st minute goal was all that divided the two sides at the end of a game which rarely got out of second gear.

Westgate, mindful of their heavy defeat the previous week, opted for a conservative approach in attack with lone striker Tom Yabio leading the line.

A cautious opening 20 minutes saw little goalmouth action at either end however the Stars began to impose themselves slowly on the match with midfielder Colin Quirk at the heart of a number of promising moves. The breakthrough however came from a defensive error when Westgate keeper Milan Milutinovic's partial clearance of a Stars cross fell to Stars' striker Sezgi, who volleyed first time into an unguarded net.

The visitors had a couple of chances to equalise on either side of the break. Striker Yabio got in behind the Stars defence and was about to have a free shot on goal when Stars' Tierry Boi's desperate lunge forced him to shoot off target.

Westgate's best chance of the match was a 60th minute free header to striker bobby Pajic which sailed over the bar. The Stars rarely looked like adding to their score until a late flurry when Stars' strikers Koray Suat and Sezgi missed a number of good chances.

Westgate coach Slobodan Vulovic said after the game, " A lot better performance this week. Just a goal keeping error. We played a lot more defensive this week to try and get them on the counter. The boys dropped their bundle after conceding like that. But a lot better effort by our lads compared to last week. We had our chances. We should have put them away. I think a drawn game would have been a fair result."

Stars' coach Dean Hennessy gave a blunt assessment after the game, " Very disappointed in the performance. The only consolation is we still got three points even though we played poorly." Although the coach was at a loss to explain why, he ventured, " Sometimes it's about attitude. Last week you couldn't fault the attitude. And today you've got to question whether everyone was concentrating."

Down they go! Southern Stars' Thierry Boi and Westgate's Tom Yabio come down on top of Stars 'keeper Michael Sivulja. PHOTO: John Punshon

Next week, Hennessy's Stars take on his ex club, Kingston City who lost 0-1 to Clifton Hill on Friday night.

State League Div 1
By George Stogiannou

BRUNSWICK WIN CITY OF MORELAND DERBY

Brunswick City 4
Moreland City 1

On a beautiful afternoon for football Brunswick City took on and comprehensively beat their neighbouring team Moreland City 4-1. The game started off with both teams looking to gain control of the midfield although the Moreland City team was guilty of overplaying the long balls into its front line. Brunswick City took the ascendancy quite early in the game when 'the set piece specialist' Adam Franklin lined up to take a free kick in the 6th minute of the encounter. His dipping shot beat the Moreland City custodian, Kvasnicka, but the crossbar deflected the ball straight down onto the goal line. Brunswick's Ismail was first to react and from point blank range hammered the ball into the net. The lead was short lived though as it took the visitors only five minutes to equalise. Barichello broke free down the left flank and cut back a low cross to the front post when he reached the goal line. First to the ball was Bossio who ran from deep in midfiled to get in front of his opponent and score with a diving header. Brunswick's midfield began to work more productively through Karas and O'Brien and the chances began to eventuate. In the 17' a beautiful header by Con Vouloumanos was goal bound but the Moreland City custodian was equal to the challenge and got down well to send the ball for a corner. Vouloumanos got his revenge from the ensuing corner as the Moreland defence failed to comprehensively clear the ball. The Brunswick captain latched on to the loose ball and struck it, on the turn with his left foot, into the top corner giving Kvasnicka no chance. The momentum continued to swing the way of Brunswick as another chance went begging when Stafrace failed to connect onto Jackson's header from six yards out. After the main break both teams tried to create further opportunities but nothing more than half chances eventuated. Brunswick's three pronged forward line still appeared more dangerous than that of Moreland City whose star striker, Ryan Dinse, was being well held by Jim Vouloumanos. In the 70' Damien O'Brien won the ball in the middle of the park for Brunswick and quickly played the ball out wide to Nazir Ismail. Ismail took on his opponent and put an inch perfect cross from the right flank to Chris Sanita who in turn headed the ball into the net putting the game out of reach for the visitors. The 'icing was put on the cake' in the 89' in a moment of brilliance by Ismail. As he received the ball to his feet he turned, beat three defenders, found some space and shot truly to cap of an excellent second half for the tall striker. The 4-1 score line allows Brunswick to have 'bragging rights' for the next few months until the two sides meet again but more importantly the win moves Brunswick into second place being one of four teams that have an unblemished record of six point from the first two games.
The reserve team lost their second game in succession 0-2.

Goalscorers: Nazir Ismail (2) 6' and 89'; Con Vouloumanos 17' Chris Sanita 70' (Brunswick City) and Bossio 11' (Moreland City).

Best: Sanita, J. Vouloumanos, Karas, Franklin

Line up: Dimitropoulos, Danos, Jackson J.Vouloumanos, Franklin Karas, O'Brein, Ismail, Sanita (84' Dokolas), Stafrace (71' Athanasopoulos) , C.Vouloumanos (78' Cicchiti)

State League Div 2 NW
By Elias Simopoulos

BOO'S WORLD

With Mark Boric

Unlike the Second World War, Australia failed to prove a fortress from the Japanese as Gamba Osaka invaded Telstra Dome by scoring four goals and taking all the points last Wednesday's Asian Champions League game. Danny Allsopp scored twice, allaying fears that Victory would be impotent upfront without Archie Thompson. In fact it probably indicated he'd be more productive without the sometimes greedy Thompson as his strike "partner".

The Foxtel Cup draw provided no high risk games this round, so they will all be able to go ahead. No word on when Oakleigh Cannons and Preston Lions will eventually clash, perhaps the FFV are waiting for PM Rudd to withdraw our troops from Iraq so they can be used in keeping the peace at this volatile encounter instead.

Well done to Whittlesea keeper Robbie Simioni for holding out his former side Richmond in a sensational second half display at Epping Stadium last Monday night. He would probably just have pipped Semir Sivic for Man of the Match honours in a game that doesn't get a match report so I thought I'd put his name in lights here. The Whittlesea ground announcer put Greg Lombardo's name in lights, urging him to "pass the [expletive deleted] ball". With such hi-jinks coming from their PA system, it's a shame they don't have a big screen they could accidentally display some pornography on.

The European Champions League could be heading for an all-English Final, that's if you still count Arsenal as English and not French. If that happens don't be suprised if Craig Foster calls in sick that day and is unable to be a part of the SBS coverage. He really will be sick.

Protesters are wreaking havoc with the Olympic Torch Relay all over the world at the moment. The relay will pass through Canberra, but another opportunity to protest against the Chinese will arise when Australia host China in a World Cup Qualifier in Sydney in June. My suggestion, which I admit borders more on "international incident" and possibly "declaration of war" than just a simple "protest" would be to have a tank, with "Tiannamen Square" painted all over it, drive at their players as they lined up for the anthems. Pulling up just as they began to scatter would give them the reminder that we know all about their past and current human rights abuses.

Why do the Americans always win the penalty shoot-outs?

Players at clubs that have fallen behind in wage payments could do worse than getting Mick Gatto and his posse working on their case.

Sad news about the death of Charlton Heston last week. I was planning on writing him into my football hooligan movie sequel as a mad Yank who goes on a shooting rampage at a World Cup whilst other hools are overturning plastic cafe furniture and getting soaked by the water cannons. A hooligan would approach him saying "You are right, guns don't kill people, people kill people!" before smashing in the side of his head in with a brick.

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KATSA'S KORNER

With George Katsamboukas

KATSA'S KORNER 2-8

JOHNNY BE GOOD

The Scorer has a smile on his face as wide as the J Walker distillery, for he was called into action for the second week in a row.
John Anastasiadis and South Melbourne parted company during the week, enter Michael Michalakoloulos who is now the numero uno at South.
Coaches come and coaches go, however in the case of Anastasiadis, it must have been a very difficult decision for him to resign and one that he did not take lightly.
What would have also made this decision even harder for both him and the Club is the fact that he has been a loyal and long time servant of the Club, winning Championships both as a player and as a coach.
The Scorer has number 3 ready, any takers?

KEEP THE PASSION, LOSE THE LANGUAGE

One of my associates advised me that Round 1 of the State and Provisional leagues was a round to remember, with the Men In Black dishing out a record number of Red Tickets, not to mention, yellow tickets.
There has been a crack down on players using colourful language whist playing and it's now the latest fad for the men In Black, to produce a red ticket for foul language, including the F word.
Thankfully, there was some leniency back in my playing days; otherwise I would have spent more time at the local watering hole, as opposed to playing against the State's finest hacks.
J Walker was the loser…

BACK BREAKING RECORDS

The term Back to Back is usually used for teams that win championships in consecutive years.
Back to Back in Katsas language is polishing off one bottle of J Walker and then punishing the second one also, or spending two nights straight with Scotland's finest ambassador.
There was however another back to back record that was achieved up Doncaster way, home of where the classic movie The Heartbreak Kid was filmed many moons ago, starring Alex Dimitriadies whose most famous line to come out of this movie was "I luv Ya Pappa"
Let's return to the new Back to Back record achieved up Doncaster way where in Round 1 and Round 2 saw a total number of 6 red tickets being handed out at Doncaster Rovers venue.
Two were dished out in the Round 1 clash between Doncaster Rovers and Stonnington whist Chelsea copped 4 red tickets in their round 2 clash against Doncaster Rovers.
Two red tickets, one to each team in round 1 is hardly noteworthy, but 4 red tickets being handed out to Chelsea players in Round 2 is certainly some kind of record!

GLITZ & GLAMOUR

Caught up with one of Melbourne's Finest Pop Star players recently and whilst I was with him, I did a quick calculation as to how much the clothes that he was wearing were worth.
The conclusion was that his T-Shirt was worth more than every garment that Katsa had on.
The conversation got better though when this pop star admitted that he was featured on you tube, in the company of other pop star player friends, showing the after effects of a big night out.
In order to protect this player's impeccable reputation amongst the soccer community, his name will remain anonymous.
Needless to say, this group of pop star players were kindly taped by one of their friends using the latest in mobile telephone video technology, what I saw even shocked me, in that I am a firm believer that alcohol should enter the human body, the larger the quantity the better, and that is should leave the body as a yellow colour, and not mixed in with that nights dinner!
PS If you are ever bored and with a bit of time on your hands.
Visit www.youtube.com.au and use the search facility.
Enter in your favourite players name; you may be shocked with what you see….

WAY TO GO MEL

Another player excelled himself last week, where he used a GPS to provide him directions on how to get to an away venue, where he was due to play.
In he got into his car and he entered in the address of where he wanted to go.
The GPS then displayed a total travel time of 37 minutes, so this player was confident that he would make it to the venue in enough time before kick off.
Problem was that he pressed one wrong choice button and a 37 minute trip turned into a one hour and 37 minute trip that took the player right in the middle of peak hour football traffic.
Moral of the Story? Stick to the old Melways, and if you feel the need to use a GPS, make sure you read the user manual that comes with it before you set out on a trip.

Until next week.

This is Katsa – Just as you've known him.

And remember, One Bad Dim Sim on a Friday can spoil an entire weekend, but one poor choice of dining venue prior to attending a State One Game at a ground without adequate toilet facilities, or the accessories that go with it can bring on a new meaning to word "Holding On".

A dim sim yesterday...

TSIGAN'S TSIGAR

With Mike Lilikakis

DUR FIVE YEAR PLAN

If I had a buck for every time I heard "The Plan" come within earshot, I'd be a millibilligazillionare.
Snot just the Companies, countries, brokers, investors, managers, principals, parents, clever mugs and burs, conglomerates and pimps.
The foray of "The Plan", also exists within the echelons of clubs.
All kinds of clubs.
I did mention pimps.

Soon as a team struggles, the coach is to blame. The players are next in line for madam guillotine and the committee starts looking over their shoulders.
Sponsors get a little edgy because the return which was promised by said investment is but a pipe dream, and getting sucked out faster than a oops, nope, I'll get arrested for saying that…..

Enter the Bureaucrats.
This is not a line from, neither is it an endorsement of or for Star Wars Episode One which is totally shyte, except for the really cool light saber duel between Darth Maul and Qui Gon-Gin, with a young Obi Wan Kenobi joining in with mucho gusto.

TAKE TWO
SCENE ONE
ACTION

Enter the Bureaucrats;
The inflexible and oppressive money huggers, who eat, breath, und crap money ,money, money, must be funny, in a rich man's world.

These immunosuppressive baa stead's then hand out paperwork written in a totally foreign tongue, probably from the planet Xerox, and you spend 5 minutes wondering where your lawyer is, how much is it going to cost you, and trip deep into a sudden urge to grab the stapler off the desk, and go to town like Dirty Harry on everyone but yourself.

The fifth does not exist in this country.
For shame.

Behold the paper saying thus verily;
P2 (a) "The Club relies upon the range, aptness and total obscurity of (your name here) and or of their vocabulary to an inordinate degree, and since therefore and here fore to whit any diminution of said vocabulary by (your name here), would thus be considered baneful and deleterious to The Club, its subsidiaries, sponsors and investors (pty ltd).

(b) "If (your name here), is forced to consult a lexicon to establish the etymology of any word with less than four syllables, or (your name here) is unable to truncate, vitiate, or etiolate tendentious rodomontade's by liberal janissaries, or

(c) "If (your name here), is unable to grasp any portion of our demands, wants, diet, ownership rights and sleeping habits, without resorting to doing what we want entail on this bit of papyrus, The Club can and will string (your name here) out to dry, with lots of nasty threats, and backstabbing to other clubs you might think of transferring to.

HAVE A HOWL

In the delightful vein of Kent Brockman with "My Two Cents", and Peter Griffin's "What Grinds My Gears", we at Tsigan FC believe its time to have a howl.
For frog's sake, 'tis a nightmare on Elm Street when those who bitterly oppose abortion are in favour of the death penalty.

They whinge about the quality of education, but vote against any tax hike that would give more money to schools.

They're not interested in sports and don't attend any games all season, but end up with tickets to the MCG on Boxing Day sitting in the Member's Stand, rubbing shoulders with Dougie Walters.

They whine about how the powers that be should do something about the homeless, but go stark raving mad when it's suggested a shelter be erected in their neighborhood.

The Tsigani have got together and come up with their own 20/20, but about half as long.
Doesn't matter if it costs twice as much, it benefits the Tsigani, thus benefiting you.

Reduce the Wildlife Conservation and Heritage Parks workforce by making the animals earn their keep.
Issue one size fits all uniforms to all public servants and army personnel.
Sell vanity license plates to all government officials and foreign diplomats. Especially Asian ones.
Package and sell all classified government documents by recycling them as toilet paper.
Turn over all foreign loan collections to the mob/mafia/cosanostra/Corleone clan type figures.
Reduce military pomp and circumstance bands to just a busker in Burke St.
Collect royalty or Oz Tax fees to all anthems sung in Australia which are not Australian.
Set up a "shotgun" ride for all Tsigani. Doesn't matter if it only applies to
Tsigani, it benefits us, thus benefiting you.

GUETTY REUNKER OR SOMETHING…

Can't remember the last time I saw a dunce cap, or a thief wearing a "lone ranger" mask, or throw a boot at the cat singing on the fence, or a newsboy yelling "Extra, Extra, Read All About It!!!", or a magician that said "ABRACADABRA!", or "HOCUS POCUS!", or a hobo with his gear tied up to the end of a stick, or an Indian with a feather in his hair, or a jug of whisky with XXX marked on it, or a bank safe or piano falling from a high window, or a reporter with a "PRESS" card stuck in his hat band?
No instead we have some German/ Dutch/Belgian/Swiss person with an unpronounceable name showing us things we don't want to buy at 2am. Where are the old flicks or the frikkin' cartoons?

Next thing you know, we'll have Criminal Classifieds between 2-5am.
Example:
HEAVY BREATHING HARRY
12/22 Scurvy Avenue
ALTONA VIC
Hire me to call the girl or man of your dreams and tell them exactly what you want to do to them.
"Mi GovorimoVas Jezik"
"Se Habla Espanol"

BIG DOM'S BARBERSHOP
333 Finocchio Way
CARLTON VIC
4 CHAIRS
7 BOOKIES
NO WAITING
Open from 9 to 7 paying off at 5 to 2.

TERMINAL SPRINGS RETIREMENT HOMES
48 Tobstone Drive
FAWKNER VIC
Put a sickly relative, neighbour or friend in our steam bath for just two weeks, and watch your problems disappear.

Remember, real Randy Macho Men and Savage's don't squeal like girls when they eat pizza whilst the roof of their mouth is peeling from the heat of the cheese. They sign papers without looking at them first, hang around lesbian bars picking up lesbians and dive into water without checking its temperature first.

We drink Tabasco for breakfast.

Like every good Deutsch Jedi quips;
"May divorce be wiz you."

SPQR
AKA
TSIGAN

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EVERY WEDNESDAY 8PM
31
THIS WEEK
Melbourne Knights v South Melbourne
Green Gully Cavaliers v Oakleigh Cannons
BRINGING YOU ALL THE WEEKEND ACTION TO YOUR LOUNGEROOM

A little bit of this, that & the other...

ON THE BOX

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Sat Apr 12	**Birmingham v Everton**	
	11.55 pm	Fox Sports 1
Sat Apr 12	**Bolton v West Ham**	
	11.55 pm	(Viewers Choice)
Sat Apr 12	**Derby v Aston Villa**	
	11.55 pm	(Viewers Choice)
Sat Apr 12	**Tottenham v Middlesbrough**	
	11.55 pm	(Viewers Choice)
Sat Apr 12	**Reading v Fulham**	
	11.55 pm	(Viewers Choice)
Sun Apr 13	**Portsmouth v Newcastle**	
	2.10 am	Fox Sports 1
Sun Apr 13	**Liverpool v Blackburn**	
	10.25 pm	Fox Sports 1
Mon Apr 14	**Manchester United v Arsenal**	
	12.55 am	Fox Sports 1
Tues Apr 15	**Chelsea v Wigan**	
	4.55 am	Fox Sports 2

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English Football Pub Quiz ? ? ? ?

1. Where was the 1986 World Cup held?

2. Who was the last player to captain England before David Beckham?

3. What football club did Gordon Banks play for when he won his 1966 World Cup medal?

4. Fill in the missing name in this sequence of England managers: Ramsey, Mercer, Revie, ?

5. Which of these players never scored a hat-trick for England: Bobby Charlton, Gary Lineker, Paul Scholes, Luther Blissett, Teddy Sheringham, Alan Shearer?

6. England coaches Sammy Lee and Ray Clemence played together at which club?

7. How many places were allocated to African teams for the 2006 World Cup?

8. What did all these players win between 1989 and 1997: Paul Merson, Matt Le Tissier, Lee Sharpe, Ryan Giggs, Andy Cole, Robbie Fowler and David Beckham?

9. Aside from goalkeepers, which two England captains since 1966 never scored their country?

10. Which of these players never captained England's senior team: Peter Beardsley, Paul Ince, David Seaman, Bobby Charlton, Gordon Banks?

11. Who was England's football manager in the 1970 World Cup?

12. How many players in England's 2006 World Cup squad were also in the 1998 squad? And to ask a tougher question, name them..)

13. Which manager first appointed David Beckham as England captain?

14. Who was the first player to play for England who had not been born when England won the world cup in 1966?

Right: This former Gooner can help you with question 2.

Good luck!!

goal! Weekly

Answers

1. Mexico, 2. Martin Keown. 3. Leicester City 4. Robson, Greenwood 5. Sheringham 6. Liverpool 7. Five 8. The (PFA) Young Player of the Year award, 1989-97 9. Mick Mills and Trevor Cherry 10. Gordon Banks 11. Sir Alf Ramsey 12. Five - Sol Campbell, Gary Neville, David Beckham, Michael Owen and Rio Ferdinand 13. Peter Taylor (for Taylor's one match in charge as caretaker manager, versus Italy in November 2000) 14. Tony Adams

GOAL! WEEKLY MAILBAG

mailbag@goalweekly.com

Dear Goal! Weekly,

On Friday my friend and I attended the fixture at Anderson Park, Doncaster to watch Doncaster Rovers v Chelsea, which should have resulted in an entertaining football match, after both teams won their opening season games.
To our dismay we witnessed a display of refereeing using the Yellow and Red cards instead of the 12th rule of common sense.
In the first half Chelsea were reduced to 9 players and several yellow cards for both teams.
The game was in no way a spiteful encounter. Worse was to follow with Chelsea being reduced to 8 players, though I must state this Red card was justified.
The referee awarded Doncaster a dubious penalty, which the goalkeeper saved, however the assistant ref intimated the keeper hade made a forward movement. The second attempt was converted giving Doncaster a 2-0 lead.
With only minutes to end the game another Red card leaving Chelsea with 7 players on the field and several yellow cards for both sides.
If a bit of grey matter had been used we might have witnessed an entertaining football match, instead of the referee waving Red and Yellow cards about.
Last week at the same venue – Doncaster v Stonnington – there were 3 Red cards, 4 penalty kicks and numerous Yellow cards.
On Saturday 5th April – Chelsea v Diamond Valley – there were 2 Red cards for DVUFC with Chelsea having 2 Yellow cards.
Once again, this was not a spiteful game.
In my opinion the referee's performance was not up to the standard for this competition.
Again, a bit of common sense would have been in order.
Spectators pay to watch two clubs playing to the best of their ability and be entertained, not to impress officials dishing out frivolous decisions.
It would be interesting to have the statistics for Red and Yellow cards for the State and Provisional Leagues of the first two games of the season.
Has our FFV instructed the referees to hand out Red cards at $160 per card to fill the coffers of our Federation?
I am not a member of Doncaster Rovers or Chelsea Football Clubs.
This is in my opinion on having viewed five games over the past two weeks.

Yours in Sport,
Neilson Love
Life Member of the FFV.

support soccer street press

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BRITANNIA RULES THE WAVES?

Possible all English Final on the Horizon

The semi-finals of the European Champions League will exhibit the continuation of English dominance in club competition, with three of the four remaining sides in the competition representing England.

The prospect of the first ever all-English final is firmly on the cards, with England already securing one representative in the final in Moscow, with the winner of the semi-final showdown between Chelsea and Liverpool advancing to face either Manchester United or Barcelona in the Luzhniki Stadium in May.

It will be the fourth consecutive season an English team has reached the final, with appearances from Liverpool in 2005 and 2007 and Arsenal in 2006.

In addition, if Manchester United overcomes Barcelona, we may see the first ever European Cup final fought out by two English sides.

2008 may also be first final since 2000 – when Real Madrid defeated Spanish counterparts Valencia – to feature teams from the same country.

Liverpool and Chelsea will face each other at the semi-final stage of the competition for the third time in four years, with Liverpool maintaining a psychological advantage over the Blues from their previous semi-final appearances.

In both '05 and '07, Liverpool defeated Chelsea over the two-legged semi-final ties to set up final confrontations against AC Milan in Istanbul and Athens, respectively.

The Reds will want to make it three in a row against the Blues, and after knocking out Arsenal 5-3 on aggregate in the quarter-finals, they will be warm favourites to reach a third Champions League final under Rafa Benitez' reign.

In a frenetic second-leg clash at Anfield, Liverpool sealed a dramatic 4-2 victory to advance to the semi-final stage at the expense of the Gunners.

First-half goals from Arsenal's Abou Diaby and Liverpool's Sami Hyypia put the game on track for a third consecutive 1-1 draw between the sides in the space of a week, but a spectacular second half would change all that.

Fernando Torres' superb turn and strike into the top corner of the Arsenal net in the 69th minute saw Liverpool on course to qualify, but in the 83rd minute the tables turned in Arsenal's favour when Emmanuel Adebayor equalised for the Londoners, following a scintillating assist from Theo Walcott.

After a Liverpool attacking move broke down, Walcott quickly pounced on the loose ball, sprinted over 60-yards from box-to-box, riding four challenges on the way to placing a cool cross to Adebayor, who duly slotted home.

It was an outstanding display of skill, speed and maturity from the 19-year-old, and it had given his side one foot in the semi-finals on away goals with the scoreline at 2-2.

Arsenal needed to hold on for seven minutes to progress, but they could only manage a mere 30 seconds.

Straight from the kick-off, Ryan Babel surged forward to the Kop end only to be controversially brought down by Kolo Toure in the penalty area, whilst Arsenal were still contemplating their important equaliser.

The Kop roared in ecstasy as referee Peter Frojdfeldt pointed at the spot, then in a hushed silence of anticipation, they watched Steven Gerrard emphatically bury the spot-kick high into the net.

Arsenal and Liverpool put on a hum-dinger of a match in their Champions League Quarter Final showdown during the week.

For Liverpool, hope for the semis was restored in magnificent, albeit contentious, fashion.

For Arsenal, heads were in hands, players and fans alike, still attempting to reconcile just what had occurred over the previous two minutes.

For the neutral, it was an Epic.

As Arsenal pushed for an equaliser in the dying moments, a cleared ball left substitute Babel and Cesc Fabregras one-on-one in Arsenal's half.

It was fresh versus fatigued and Babel won the tussle and poked the ball past Manuel Almunia to make it 4-2, securing yet another glorious European victory for the Reds.

In slightly less dramatic terms, Chelsea progressed to its fourth semi-final appearance in five years with a mechanic 2-0 victory over Turkish side Fenerbahce at Stamford Bridge.

Chelsea has failed to progress to the final in all its previous semi-final appearances, and after their unimpressive display against Fenerbahce, they will have to improve considerably if they are to rupture Liverpool's current European form and reach the final.

After losing the first leg 2-1 in Istanbul, Chelsea was determined to reverse the result, and Michael Ballack gave the home side a dream start when he scored in the fourth minute to give his side the advantage on the away goal rule with the aggregate score locked at 2-2.

Although valiant during the majority of the game, the Turkish underdogs were unable to severely threaten Chelsea's increasing hold on the tie, despite the Blues having to field their third-string 'keeper after an injury to Carlo Cudicini, and with Petr Cech absent.

Frank Lampard finally ended Fenerbahce's dream run in the competition, when he scored Chelsea's second, three minutes from time.

Manchester United and Barcelona both comfortably won their quarter-final home ties 1-0 to advance to an intriguing semi-final clash.

United suffered an early scare when they conceded a penalty after 30 minutes, but Italian midfielder Daniele De Rossi embarrassingly fired over the cross-bar.

Alex Ferguson's side never looked troubled after that, with Carlos Tevez rounding off a 3-0 aggregate victory by heading home Owen Hargreaves' cross in the 70th minute, to send them into their second consecutive semi-final appearance.

With dangerous duo Christiano Ronaldo and Wayne Rooney rested by Ferguson for their crucial Premier League clash with Arsenal on Sunday, United's 'second-string' side completed victory with an industrious display which inflicted Roma's third defeat at Old Trafford in the space of 12 months.

Whilst the form of English giants Manchester United sees it as the competition's hot favourite, Barcelona has been struggling both on and off the pitch with stars such as Ronaldinho rumoured to be looking for a transfer out.

The Catalan club churned out a hard-fought 1-0 win and a 2-0 aggregate victory, courtesy of a 'lucky' Yaya Toure at the Nou Camp against German outfit Schalke 04.

Schalke, in their first ever Champions League quarter-final in the club's history, were unintimidated by the atmosphere provided by the 88,000 strong Nou Camp crowd and took the game to the home side.

But an upset was not to be, and a sequence of defensive calamities in the 43rd minute allowed Barca to score, finishing the German side's fairytale run.

With four more teams eliminated, and only four remaining, the semi-finals of the Champions League will hopefully provide as much entertainment, action and intrigue as the quarter finals produced.

ECL Semi-Finals
Liverpool v Chelsea
Manchester United v Barcelona

By Julius Ross
Champion Reporter

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VICTORY FACE ACL ELIMINATION

Three points from three games not good enough

Melbourne Victory slumped to their second consecutive defeat in the Asian Champions League last week, after they were on the wrong end of a seven-goal thriller at the Telstra Dome.

Gamba Osaka dealt the significant blow to the Aussie side, with a late goal from Brazilian super-sub Lucas giving Osaka a 4-3 victory and a vital three-points.

Victory, who have managed just one win from three games thus far in their inaugural ACL season, will have to win their remaining three fixtures to have a chance of progressing to the quarter-finals.

Melbourne now sit four points behind group leader Osaka after a pulsating match on Wednesday night.

With Socceroo striker Archie Thompson and Costa Rican Carlos Hernandez both absent due to knee injuries, Ernie Merrick added Adrian Caceres and Nick Ward to his squad to provide much-needed fire-power and support for forward Danny Allsopp.

And it was Allsopp and Caceres who linked up early to open the scoring for the Melbourne side.

Osaka 'keeper Yosuke Fujigaya's fumbled a stringing drive from Caceres to give Allsopp a simple finish in the 3rd minute to send the 23,000 strong crowd into raptures.

Victory's perfect start was ruined, however, on 32 minutes via a sensational left-footed drive from Gamba's No. 10, Takahiro Futagawa, which left goalie Serafim Theoklitos with no chance.

Six minutes later, Victory's hopes were again shattered as a superbly taken corner from Japanese international Yasuhito Endo was headed home by Brazilian Bare as Gamba came from behind to snatch a 2-1 lead.

But Victory replied almost instantly, with defender Rodrigo Vargas nodding home a beautiful set piece by Caceres for his second Champions League goal, with five minutes remaining in the half.

Victory continued to rally in the second half, with Allsopp grabbing his second goal of the game, and third of the campaign, on 66 minutes to take the lead for the A-League side once more.

Just three minutes after Allsopp had given Victory the lead, Gamba, who have made a name for themselves as the "comeback-kings" did just that, captain Yamaguchi Satoshi scoring from another corner by Endo to draw the sides level once more at 3-3.

It was a superb encounter and Gamba left it late to compile further misery onto Ernie Merrick's side, with Brazilian striker Lucas finishing superbly at the near post in the 90th minute to silence the Victory supporters.

Victory will feel that they deserved at least a point, but will be kicking themselves for twice squandering the lead to allow Gamba to snatch all three points from under their noses.

It was the second time this campaign that Gamba had managed a 4-3 comeback away from home; the Japanese side turning around a two goals deficit to defeat Korean outfit Chunnam Dragons 4-3 in match day two at Gwangyang Stadium.

Gamba now look strong favourites to progress from Group G at the expense of Victory; with the J-League club sitting three points clear of second-placed Thai side Chonburi FC, who suffered a 1-0 defeat at the hands of bottom side Chunnam.

Victory will have to take maximum points from its final three group matches to be in contention for top spot in the group, and its Asian Champions League future is currently hanging by a thread.

Melbourne will face Gamba again in match day four on April 23, this time away from home in Osaka's Expo '70 Commemorative Stadium in Japan.

It will be make or break for the Victory, and if Merrick's side fail to secure all three points, they will almost certainly face early elimination in their debut ACL season.

Daniel Allsopp rose to the occassion last Wednesday night with a couple of well taken goals, but it wasn't enough as Victory went down to the visiting Gamba Osaka side of Japan.

By Julius Ross

Photos by Daniel Flis

AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 2008

Group A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
KURUVCHI FC (UZBEKISTAN)	3	2	0	1	4	1	3	6
AL ITTIHAD FC (SAUDI ARABIA)	3	2	0	1	3	2	1	6
AL ITTIHAD (SYR)	3	1	0	2	2	3	-1	3
SEPAHAN (IR IRAN)	3	1	0	2	2	5	-3	3

Group B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
SAIPA (IR IRAN)	3	2	1	0	4	1	3	7
AL QUWA AL JAWIYA (IRQ)	3	1	1	1	1	1	0	4
AL WASL SPORTS CLUB (UAE)	3	1	0	2	1	3	-2	3
KUWAIT SC (KUWAIT)	3	0	2	1	1	2	-1	2

Group C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
AL KARAMA (SYR)	3	2	1	0	7	2	5	7
AL SADD SPORT CLUB (QATAR)	3	1	1	1	4	5	-1	4
AL AHLI (SAUDI ARABIA)	3	0	2	1	2	3	-1	2
AL WAHDA (UAE)	3	0	2	1	3	6	-3	2

Group D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
AL QADSIA (KUWAIT)	3	2	1	0	3	1	2	7
PAKHTAKOR (UZBEKISTAN)	3	1	1	1	4	3	1	4
AL GHARAFA (QAT)	3	0	2	1	3	4	-1	2
ARBIL (IRAQ)	3	0	2	1	2	4	-2	2

Group E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
ADELAIDE UNITED FC (AUSTRALIA)	3	2	1	0	4	1	3	7
CHANGCHUN YATAI FC (CHINA PR)	3	2	1	0	3	1	2	7
POHANG STEELERS(KOR)	3	1	0	2	4	4	0	3
BINH DUONG FC (VIETNAM)	3	0	0	3	3	8	-5	0

Group F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
KASHIMA ANTLERS FC (JAPAN)	**3**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**16**	**1**	**15**	**9**
BEIJING GUOAN FC (CHINA PR)	**3**	**2**	**0**	**1**	**7**	**4**	**3**	**6**
KRUNG THAI BANK (THAILAND)	**3**	**1**	**0**	**2**	**12**	**14**	**-2**	**3**
NAM DINH FC (VIETNAM)	**3**	**0**	**0**	**3**	**2**	**18**	**-16**	**0**

Group G

	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
GAMBA OSAKA (Japan)	**3**	**2**	**1**	**0**	**9**	**7**	**2**	**7**
CHONBURI (THAILAND)	**3**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**4**	**3**	**1**	**4**
MELB VICTORY FC (AUSTRALIA)	**3**	**1**	**0**	**2**	**6**	**7**	**-1**	**3**
CHUNNAM DRAGONS (KOREA REP.)	**3**	**1**	**0**	**2**	**4**	**6**	**-2**	**3**

NEXT ROUND - Wed 23rd April

CHONBURI (THAILAND)
V
CHUNNAM DRAGONS (KOREA REP.)

GAMBA OSAKA (Japan)
V
MELBOURNE VICTORY FC (AUSTRALIA)

ADELAIDE UNITED FC (AUSTRALIA)
V
BINH DUONG FC (VIETNAM)

POHANG STEELERS(KOR)
V
CHANGCHUN YATAI FC (CHINA PR)

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FFSA FEDERATION CUP KICKS OFF

The regular FFSA Men's soccer competition took a back seat last weekend as the 2008 FFSA Federation Cup kicked off.

Rich in traditional and now in its 101st year, this unique Cup competition has withstood the test of time, bringing with it matches of total unpredictability when minnows are pitted against their higher league counterparts. In a gladiatorial tournament unlike any other where teams are automatically knocked out if defeated, it inevitably produces games that are filled with drama and passion, giving the spectator a veritable feast of football.

The first round produced some mammoth match-ups, with four Super League clubs going head to head. But the huge derby clash at the Croatian Sports Centre between traditional fiery rivals Raiders and White City Warriors was to draw the most attention. Raiders Coach Branko Milosevic had his team primed to give their loyal band of supporters nothing but the best in the game that fell on Croatian Independence Day, while the Warriors new coach Adrian Santrac was determined to spoil the party and repeat the victory they had tasted over Raiders in the 2005 Cup Final. Both sides had vital experienced players missing through injury, so youngsters had to show their skills and worth in this game. Raiders quickly got off to a great start, creating chances early in the game that went unrewarded, the Warriors taking their time to settle into the game. The first goal of the match came in the 30th minute, when a powerful shot by Raiders Michael Paleka was deflected by Warriors keeper Dimitri Brinias which rebounded into the path of oncoming Raider Aaron Westervelt who made no mistake scoring with a bounding header. The tempo of the game then changed and to their credit, White City began to regain their composure and work their way back into the game with several opportunities to equalize being denied by quality Raiders keeper Robert Matosevic. The Warriors persistency paid off, when in the 42nd minute a long pass from the back was received by Sarantis Parissos, who ran out the Raiders defence to pass to unchecked Pro Loizides who levelled the scores at 1 goal a piece. The goal came at the expense of Raiders defender Daniel Menechella, coming off with a groin injury leaving the Raiders depleted of all three of their experienced backline of Michael Cartwright, Scott Morrison and Menechella, but outstanding performances on the field by Daniel Hain, Jai Pullinen and Aaron Taye seemed to make up for the loss. Minutes later, Referee Matthew Cream blew the whistle for half time, saving any chance of a second goal from the run on by White City. Coming back from the break, Warriors keeper Brinias was kept busy, as Raiders continually peppered the goals to try to break the deadlock. Finally in the 80th minute Michael Paleka broke through the Warriors defence and took the ball home for a 2-1 lead. Even though the second half was dominated by the Raiders, a great opportunity for White City to equalise came in the last five minutes of the match, when Parissos with the ball 40metres out, had team mate McDonald on his own to the left of the box, instead choosing to have a shot himself which landed in the safe hands of keeper Matosevic, a master of his trade. Then as they traditionally do between these two sides, tempers flared as frustration grew with the result being red cards shown to a player from both sides. Although this put a dampener on the great spirit in which this game was played, it didn't change the score of a 2-1 Raiders victory and their step closer to holding the Cup aloft.

The other big Super League match up saw Campbelltown City Red Devils punishing a somewhat depleted Para Hills Knights at home 7-1. The big result surprised some, but the pattern of the game was evident early on, as the Red Devils went three goals up care of Simon Catanzaro (7'), Michael Menechella (12') and Nathan Fleetwood (16'). The Red Devils were doing it comfortably with Fleetwood adding a further goal as they went in for the half time break, his second of four for the day. Unfortunately, just after the start of the second half, the game was marred when Knights player Scott Lindsay broke his leg, coming off second best after putting in a crunching tackle on Campbelltown's galloping defender Paul Savio, the latter coming off with a bruised knee. This saw a 30 minute hold to the game while an ambulance was called, but coming at a stage where it seemed Knights were at a point of no return. Mark Mulady continued on with the Knights run of bad luck, when he was sent off at the 80th minute mark. Red Devils Captain Elias Demourtzidis also contributed to the goal tally in the second half.

Raiders Osama Malik heading for a 'meat in the sandwich' clash with White City Warriors

Modbury Jets 3 - West Adelaide Blues 2. At Jet Park Modbury Jets burst the bubble of unbeaten State League leaders West Adelaide Blues, as they withstood a very determined Blues attack, themselves unlucky not capitalising on the numerous scoring opportunities they created. The game went into extra time as scores were locked at 2-all after full time, where Modbury took their stronghold over their opposition with the tough style of football we have come to expect. Led from the back by Captain Nathan Day who has shown leadership in his new role in defence, the Jets are moving in an upward direction to soar above the dark clouds of relegation that so many predicted at the start of the season. Jets Coach Duane Gray said he was very happy with the way his players used the ball in the back and middle thirds of the ground.

"We let ourselves down up front and almost paid the harshest penalty for not converting our opportunities. Had we lost today, it would have been a total injustice on the balance of play."

Modbury's goal scorers for the match were Captain Nathan Day along with youngsters Russell Clayton and Konrad Kosznik and for the Blues Milos Markovic and Guiseppe Zotti.

Adelaide Galaxy 4 - Western District Toros 0. At Con Makris Park, Adelaide Galaxy had their patience tested as they played State League cellar dwellers Western District Toros. Despite putting four goals past the Toros keeper and not under any real threat during the game, Galaxy Coach Carl Maynard was full of praise in how his opposition played well and in an organised manner.

"They played some good football. We had to be patient and for the most part we were. We can't be too disappointed as these games are traditionally difficult but to be honest we probably should have scored two or three more."

Goal getters for Galaxy were fresh signing Michael Doyle, Shaun McGreevy and Steve De Giovanniello with 2, the second described as all class.

Croydon Kings 3 - S.A. Sports Institute 7. Croydon Kings were put to task at their home ground Polonia Park when they faced young elite players from the SA Sports Institute in the Cup clash. Croydon having some players unavailable due to injury, Coach Paul Shillabeer had some interesting inclusions to the side including a very young inexperienced Daniel Norman in goals. Spectators saw some great runs of play by both sides with Croydon going two goals up at the half time break. But S.A.S.I. with the fitness to outlast most teams showed that's when they do the most damage, the SA youngsters staging a great comeback the side netting two goals to level the scores, with a Croydon player taking an early shower after a second yellow card for the game. As both sides desperately played on for a win adding a further goal to their tally, the sides couldn't be split and the game was forced to go to extra time at 3 goals a piece. It was then that S.A.S.I. went all out to finish the game, taking advantage of a depleted Croydon side who had a further three players coming off with injuries and Coach Paul Shillabeer just running out of men to put on. The young SASI team came away with a hard fought but strong 7-3 win which put a huge smile on the face of Coach Martyn Crook. S.A.S.I. scorers were Dario Staka and Chris Pepe each with 2, and singles coming from Michael Alexandrou, Joseph Costa and Francesco Monterosso while Croydon's goals were scored by John Motley, Luke Klimek and Ben McLoughlin.

International 0 – Adelaide City 13. Current FFSA Cup Holders Adelaide City found themselves travelling down to the bottom end of South Australia to Mt Gambier to face up to 2007 Western Border Champions International at Cassadio Park. With City looking for their 16th Cup title since 1953, it was no wonder that there was such a media hype down at the Mount, focussing on this blockbuster clash in the region all in the 50th Anniversary year of the Western Border Soccer Association. This generated huge interest with the locals and many spectators went along to the ground to witness this match. But as predicted, it was a huge match up and Adelaide City did not have much trouble defeating their Western Border opponents with more like a cricket score of 13-0. A long list of goal scorers were recorded for Adelaide City headed up by Freddy Agius bagging 4, Nick Budin with 3, A Ciccozzi and Damian Mori with 2 a piece, and singles coming from Jace Cummins and Jonathon Negus.

Other matches saw unbeaten Super League leaders MetroStars comfortably win at home against Premier League side Adelaide Cobras 11-1. MetroStars had 6 players scoring goals with Jim Stavrides , Michele Lastella and Andrew Ciarla scoring 2 each, Adriano Pellegrino, James Yong, Scott Tunbridge, Ryan Manolev and David Terminello each scoring a single and Michael Margaritis putting away the lonely goal for Adelaide Cobras.

Super League Adelaide Blue Eagles 7 defeated State League Seaford Rangers 0. The Rangers don't have much luck with the draw in the Cup, last year drawing Cup champions Adelaide City first up and this year getting Blue Eagles. Again the Super League side had very little trouble coming away with a win as the Rangers were outplayed. It must be mentioned that scored were 6-0 at half time so special commendation to Seaford for only conceding the extra goal in the second half. Goals for Adelaide Blue Eagles were scored by Lachlan Campbell with 2, Dean Kendrick, Chris Atsikbasis, Ricardo DaSilva, Adrian Aufiero and Steven Kidd.

By Nat Adamopulos

Photo by Adam Butler

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TOP TWO HELD AS WOLVES PREY

Point Nepean keeps in touch with runaway pack

The NSW Premier League's top two, Sutherland and Manly, were both held to draws this weekend.

Sutherland played out a cagey 0-0 draw at Jensen Park with Bankstown City, who are slowly recovering from a dismal start to the season.

Manly were involved in a thrilling 3-3 draw with APIA at Cromer Park. After storming to a 2-0 lead, APIA were reduced to ten men late in the first half, after which Manly surged into the attack; although they subsequently put three goals past Matthew Nash in the APIA goal, it wasn't quite enough to haul in the three points.

Wollongong FC continued their steady rise up the table with a 2-0 away win against the West Sydney Berries. John Turner's men are now only four points behind the Sharks.

Sydney United were surprisingly unable to gain any ground on the leaders, drawing 0-0 at home with the lowly Macarthur Rams.

In the Saturday fixture, champions Blacktown City finally registered their first win of the campaign, Bruno Salas securing the points against Marconi with a spectacular 35-yard strike in the second half.

GAME OF THE ROUND

Sydney Olympic 0 – Penrith-Nepean United 1

Both of the sides facing off at Belmore had made solid starts to the season, and although Olympic had made the more headlines up to now, it was Penrith who came away with the points despite playing a dour, negative game.

Olympic dominated proceedings from the outset; captain Peter Zorbas had a chance after a subtle move on the left, and Roger Galayini's header from Shannon Cole's corner found Mark Schwarzer's younger brother Daniel on his mettle in the PNU goal.

Twice in the first half Nick Tsattalios, Sydney FC's young left-back on loan at PNU, found himself free in the box on the left, but failed to provide a telling centre. Penrith had another chance when their right-winger Carl McNaughton thundered through the Olympic defence, but his eventual shot was somewhat fortuitously saved by Michael Herbert.

Although Olympic were completely dominant from the half-hour onwards, with James Kovas and Milorad Simonovic both spurning good chances, it was Penrith who opened the scoring in first-half injury time. William Stuart's shot was blocked for a corner, and Tsattalios's well-flighted inswinger from the right was nodded home by Ryan O'Shea in the midst of dreadful Olympic marking.

The second half was conducted almost entirely in the PNU half, with the away side generally deploying ten men in defence. Shannon Cole, who had picked up a knock late in the first half, did not reappear after the break, and Olympic badly missed his influence at set-pieces.

There were several excellent chances for Olympic to salvage a point in the second half; on the hour, Nathan Sherlock's fine overlapping run ended with a neat one-two with James Kovas, but Sherlock pushed the ball wide from close range. Then Chris Triantis, a second-half substitute for the home side, forced Daniel Schwarzer into a superb save from a 20-yard free kick.

In the closing minutes, as hordes of Olympic players converged on the Penrith goal, there were two more close calls; a lob from Mirko Jurilj, up from the back, was cleared off the Penrith line by their goalscorer O'Shea; then, in the final minute of injury time, Schwarzer did well to hold on to a shot from another Olympic substitute, Marino Musumeci.

FOOTBALL NSW

NSW RESULTS

West Sydney Berries 0 Wollongong FC 2 (Ballamodou Conde 26m Osagie Ederaro 63m), Bankstown City FC 0 Sutherland Sharks 0, Sydney United 0 Macarthur Rams 0, Sydney Olympic 0 Penrith Nepean United 1 (Ryan O'Shea 44m), Manly United FC 3 (Christopher Payne 61m Craig Midgley 63m Joseph Schirripa 90m) APIA Leichhardt Tigers 3 (Marton Vass 18m Christian Care 27m Robert Younis 72m).

NSW STANDINGS

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
1	Sutherland Sharks	7	5	2	0	15	5	10	17
2	Manly United FC	7	5	1	1	19	7	12	16
3	Wollongong FC	7	4	1	2	8	8	0	13
4	Penrith Nepean United	7	3	3	1	10	5	5	12
5	Sydney United	7	3	2	2	9	7	2	11
6	Sydney Olympic	6	3	1	2	11	6	5	10
7	A.P.I.A Tigers	7	2	3	2	11	11	0	9
8	West Sydney Berries	7	2	1	4	9	11	-2	7
9	Bankstown City	6	1	3	2	3	8	-5	6
10	Blacktown City	7	1	2	4	6	15	-9	5
11	Macarthur Rams	7	0	3	4	3	10	-7	3
12	Marconi Stallions	7	0	2	5	3	14	-11	2

By Mike Salter
in Sydney

SOUTH HOBART TO THE FORE

Olympic drop to second on goal difference

South Hobart are the new leaders in southern Tasmania's Premier League competition after their 4-1 win over third-placed Glenorchy Knights at KGV Park on Friday night.

They took over from the previous leaders Hobart Olympic on goal-difference, despite Olympic downing sixth-ranked Clarence United 4-3 with an injury-time goal away at Wentworth Park on Saturday.

It was a bad week for the once mighty Knights, who also lost 1-0 away to University the previous Sunday, despite having all the chances.

A penalty converted by Julian Proud gave University their win, but the Knights hit the woodwork three times - twice through Nick Harrison and once through Tom Huigsloot.

The Knights' Brazilian signing, Igor, missed an absolute sitter from 6 metres early in the match.

In the other game that Sunday, Taroona drew 1-1 with Kingborough Lions United in a bottom-of-the-table clash at Kelvedon Park.

Alexander Leszczynski put Eagles ahead with a 25-metre free-kick, but Chris Cox virtually walked the equaliser into the net in the second half.

Last Saturday, the Lions fought out a goalless draw at home at Lightwood Park against fellow strugglers New Town Eagles, who lost Jamie Vernon after a second yellow card just ten minutes from the end.

South Hobart and Olympic both have 9 points from three outings and only goal-difference puts South in front (+ 7 as opposed to + 5).

South survived an early scare against the Knights as Tony Dzelalija whacked a shot against the post following a corner, but they took the lead in the 9th minute through Billy Gasparinatos, who made the most of Anthony Grundy's slip and a tangle between Dzelalija and his goalkeeper Ben Peter.

The Knights were level with a minute, however, when Josh Fielding powered a magnificent header past Mark Moncur at the far post following an accurate free-kick from deep on the right by Janko Begovic.

David Abbott restored South's lead just before the interval, while Tom Roach made it 3-1 early in the second half, twisting in the air to head Abbott's cross past Peter.

Igor almost pulled a goal back for the Knights, but his low drive hit the outside of the left-hand post.

Roach set up Bart Beecroft for an easy fourth from a header shortly before the end.

Olympic took a 14th-minute lead against Clarence when Kosta Grillas headed home Chris Tsakiris's corner, but the home side equalised with a delightful goal.

Mynonge Kamba, one of Clarence's two Congolese signings, sent a pass from midfield to Paul Bremner and his centimetre-perfect through-ball left Dwayne Walsh with the easy task of shooting past Dmitri Nester in the Olympic goal.

Kamba then put Clarence ahead with a penalty, awarded after he was brought down by Hugh Richardson, but Olympic's Danijel Djekanovic made it 2-2 shortly after the resumption, firing home at the far post after Ben Backhaus's shot across the face of goal.

Michael Bulis's delicate but well-placed header put Olympic in front, but Jacob Kavanagh levelled for Clarence with six minutes remaining.

Five minutes into injury time, Grillas netted the winner with a spectacular scissors-kick in a crowded goalmouth following Bulis's corner.

In the northern Premier League, Launceston City's woes continued when they lost 2-1 at home to Burnie United.

Riverside Olympic continued their good early-season form by downing Ulverstone 3-2.

Mynonge Kamba scores a penalty for Clarence United against Olympic in the Tasmanian Premier League on the weekend.

FOOTBALL FEDERATION TASMANIA

By Walter Pless
Photos by Walter Pless

TARTAN TALK with Nic Townsend

THE SEASON'S WORST SIGNINGS.
With the season nearly over, one can now evaluate which clubs have been spending their money wisely. The short answer: not many. Ever season football clubs manage to waste vast sums of cash on dud signings. With the latest television deal resulting in a minimum £60 million for every club, an already inflated market went haywire. It has been hard work but below I've listed the worst signings for the season. Some players I've overlooked based on the fact that they are still quite young and can yet redeem themselves. However the rest have simply been hugely over valued.

1. Darren Bent - £16.5 million. There is little doubt that Bent is a decent footballer and there isn't a club outside of the top four who wouldn't welcome him into their team. But is he worth £16.5 million?
Keep in mind that Tottenham bought him off a relegated Charlton desperate to sell and faced little competition. Think of all the other possibilities £16.5 million offers. Even Thierry Henry cost less than that. And for all that money Bent has only managed to score 6 goals all season.

2. Florent Malouda - £13.5 million. The highly rated French defender has only managed 17 games this season and can't seem to cope with English football. At 27 it will be hard for him to adapt now. Mind you, Chelsea with the amount of money Chelsea have squandered over the years, what's another £13.5 million?

3. Robert Earnshaw - £3 million. Desperate to stay in the premiership Derby broke their own record transfer fee when they bought Earnshaw off Norwich. When you go to those lengths for a striker, you expect goals in return. Earnshaw hasn't scored a single one.

4. Rolando Bianchi - £8.8 million. When appointed Manchester City's manager Sven Göran Ericsson made some panic buys in what was left of the transfer window. He really lashed out on Bianchi who is supposedly the next big thing of Italian football. It started well, with Bianchi scoring on debut, but he found it difficult to settle in England. By January he was back in Italy, on loan to Lazio, and he isn't expected back in England anytime soon.

5. Mido - £6 million. Mido's last season with Tottenham produced one goal and he was a long way down the peaking order at While Heart Lane.
Most people would accept he just wasn't that good. But not Gareth Southgate. He spent £6 million to get him to Middlesbrough and in return he got 2 goals.

Bianchi nearly broke the bank at Manchester City. What a biatch!

6. Scott Parker - £7 million. To be fair on West Ham injuries have hampered Parker's season. But they hamper every season meaning he has never quite lived up to the potential he showed when he was younger.
The man is obviously injury prone and signing him was a gamble. £7 millions is a lot to gamble with.

7. David Nugent - £6 million. Nugent excelled in the Championship with Preston North End and even earned an England call-up despite playing in the second tier. But since moving to Portsmouth he has played just
11 games without scoring a single goal.

8. Jason Koumas - £5.3 million. Another player who stood out in the Championship but has so far failed in the Premier League. In 2006/07 Koumas won the Player of the Year while playing for West Bromwich Albion and Wigan faced stiff competition for his signature. He has since only played 18 games and been largely unimpressive.

9. Joey Barton - £5.8 million. With his long history of off-field dramas Newcastle knew they were taking a risk with Barton. They were banking on Sam Alladyce being able to tame him and bring forth his talents but it didn't work out for obvious reasons. The ever-troublesome Barton just keeps getting into the news for all the wrong reasons while Newcastle are left to clean up the mess and are nearly £6 million poorer for their efforts.

Smartest Transfer Moves
Thierry Henry - £16.5 million. Pundits thought they saw an end of an era when Henry left Arsenal. It seems hard to believe now but at the start of the season many tipped Tottenham to knock Arsenal out of the top four. But one should never underestimate Arsene Wenger who has an uncanny ability of knowing when a player has peaked and when it's time sell him while he is still worth something. Contrary to expectations Arsenal have been title contenders all season as well as being £16.5 million richer. Meanwhile Barcelona are rumoured to be looking to offload Henry with Manchester City and West Ham being touted as possible destinations.

Fernando Torres - £26 million. While £26 million is hardly a bargain, there is little doubt that Torres has been an excellent signing for Liverpool. One of the best players of the season, and at 24 has plenty of football ahead of him. With so many players coming over to England on massive contracts before largely disappointing, it's refreshing to see that at least sometimes such players live up to the hype.

Don't let the boyish looks fool you. Fernando Torres can murder any marker on his day.

The Best Signing in Britain.
Scott McDonald - £700,000. Despite the millions being spent by clubs in England, the best signing of the year took place north of the border. Celtic's acquisition of Scott McDonald was easily the best signing in Britain, if not all of Europe. Naturally I have a slight bias for Melbournians but the evidence is indisputable. £700,000 for the season's leading scorer and potential SPL Player of the Year: it's every manager's dream.

Scott McDonald: Now terrorising European defenders instead of Cranbourne grannies.

Gossip and Transfer Speculation from the English Media...

Dutch legend Johan Cruyff thinks that Ronaldinho's imminent departure from FC Barcelona is probably the best solution. The former player and manager also took a moment to criticize the Catalan crowd.
"It is always necessary to look for the best solution. If it isn't working anymore, and someone doesn't want to stay, then this is the best solution," said Cruyff.
Ronaldinho came to an agreement with Italian powerhouse AC Milan, and it seems to be only a matter of time for the two teams to clinch a deal as well.

German football legend Lothar Matthäus appears to have found a new employer, and will be joining Israeli side Maccabi Netanya this summer.

Netanya chairman Daniel Jammer told German newspaper Bild: "A big step ahead for German and Israeli football."

After his retirement as player, 'Der Lothar' had a rather unusual career as manager. After coaching at Rapid Wien, Partizan Belgrado and even Atletico Paranaense in Brazil, Matthëus went to assist the experienced Italian Giovanni Trapattoni at Red Bulls Salzburg.

Netanya have big intentions, and aim to start playing an important role in European club tournaments.

Juventus dealt a potentially fatal blow to 10-man AC Milan's Champions League hopes with a 3-2 win in blockbuster match in Turin on Saturday.
Goals from Alessandro Del Piero, David Trezeguet and Hassan Salihamidzic gave the hosts the edge over the reigning European champions, who counted two Filippo Inzaghi goals while Daniele Bonera was dismissed in the second half.
Juve thus closed the gap on second-placed AS Roma to seven points and they look almost certain to secure a place in Europe's premier competition next season.
Not so Milan who trail fourth-placed Fiorentina, who travel to leaders Inter Milan on Sunday, by four points but also have to contend with Udinese and Sampdoria in the battle for the final qualification spot.

Even Lionel Messi's return from injury failed to reignite Barcelona's title bid as Frank Rijkaard watched his side draw 2-2 with Recreativo Huelva on Saturday as they continue to gift the championship to rivals Real Madrid.
Barca twice went in front through Cameroon forward Samuel Eto'o but Marco Ruben levelled with a brace (41 min, 70) of his own and Real can now move nine points clear of their rivals with victory over Real Murcia on Sunday.
The Champions League now appears Barcelona's only hope of silverware this season and the comeback of Argentine winger Messi is a real boost ahead of the semi-final against Manchester United on April 23.
Messi had been sidelined since tearing a muscle in his left leg on March 5 but returned to action coming on a substitute on 64 minutes.

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